BEHIND THE FENCE
Inmates work on the inside for a new life on the outside
EDITOR'S LETTER

The last thing that I wanted for this issue of The Burr was a theme. Instead, I wanted stories that stood apart — stories that were about real people, trends and issues. So that's what we did. Without any constraint on our creativity or struggle to weave concepts throughout the magazine, we wrote the stories that we care about, stories that we thought you, the reader, should care about.

And now, looking back, all of the stories that I originally thought stood starkly apart, I see are connected far beyond the binding that holds their pages tightly in this book.

Tony Lombardo takes us into the Lake Erie Correctional Institution to meet the inmates who are taking classes through Kent State’s Outreach Program. These men are Kent State students despite any charge, sentence or prison-issue blues (see page 22).

And we return to education and the evolution of the way classes are being taught in stories on distance learning. But the impact that technology has on our lives is touched upon again in stories on local filmmakers and the alienation that accompanies the use of headphones and cell phones on campus. We look at those who may not always have a voice, as well, in profiles on a transgender student and third-shift custodians.

But more than anything else, these stories are social commentaries that have, at least, made me stop for a moment to notice how I interact with others, how I look at others and how they may see me. I hope it does the same for you. Enjoy.

Jennifer Kovacs
Editor
VIDEO VANGUARDS
Local filmmakers say all it takes is $400, a video camera and some fake blood

ISOLATED INCIDENTS
How we alienate ourselves by using headphones and cell phones on campus

CURIOUS CLUBS
Take a closer look at The Evil Geniuses, KSU Dodgeball, the Fencing Club and more

USE YOUR WORDS
Kent State students define some of Webster’s most recent additions

COVER: LESSONS LEARNED
Inmates at the Lake Erie Correctional Institution are Kent State students

INSIDE OUT
A Kent State transgender student reveals how she became he

Q&A: CONVERSION THERAPY
Two professionals explain if it’s possible to convert someone from gay to straight

TECHMATE
The electronic classroom is taking its place in the evolution of education

THE MIDNIGHT TOIL
Third-shift custodians struggle to balance the ups and downs of their late-night lives

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Stephen Harbaugh’s
Pray the Gay Away

Bridget Rubenking’s
From Bulls to Birth Control

Rachelle Weber’s
A Walk Through Wheatfield

Liz Opsitnik’s
Blood Sugar Battles

On the cover:
PHOTO Jacob Stewart
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All it takes is a video camera, $400 and plenty of homemade blood

When Charles Ginsburg invented the videocassette recorder in the early 1950s, he created a technology that would put a camcorder in the hands of the public 30 years later. Since then every second of every toddler’s birthday party and every Midwesterner’s trip to the Grand Canyon has been painstakingly documented by the eye of a video camera.

While people have subjected their neighbors to each moment of their recorded ventures, some folks have been putting Ginsburg’s brainchild to an arguably greater good — like making movies with $50 budgets titled “Teenage Zombie House Massacre.”

Junior Andy Campbell and his brother Luke made the 40-minute tale of the undead while in high school. Recently they took on a more serious venture, spending about $500 on their first feature-length movie, “Midnight Skater.”

“If you’ve got the drive to really make a movie, all you’ve got to do is get a camera and go out there and do it,” says Luke, 2002 Kent State graduate and director of both films.

Introduced in the ’70s, marketed in the ’80s and practically perfected in the ’90s, video is now being used by 21st century moviemakers as an affordable substitute for film.

Michael Young, director of education at the New York Film Academy, says video is a welcome invention for would-be directors who want to hone their craft.

“It allows students to experiment without getting into great debt,” Young says. “It’s also extremely portable, so you need fewer people on your crew.”

While video has its merits as a cheap medium, Young says the high cost of film pushes directors to plan out shots.

“Film forces you into a discipline that’s so important in filmmaking,” he says. “With video there’s no pressure to choose your shot, plan your shoot or rehearse the camera movements and decide what the blocking should be.”

Young says film school teaches discipline, but he admits it’s not for everyone.

“Pretty much anybody can make movies now,” he says. “You don’t have to go to film school to make films. We always say, ‘If you’re comfortable doing this on your own, go ahead.’”

Luke and producer Andy say they aren’t interested in film school — they have a more realistic view.

“We’re laid back, and we do it for fun.
If you’ve got the drive to really make a movie, all you’ve got to do is get a camera and go out there and do it.

LEFT  Actor and special effects creator Ezra Haidet (left) and Andy Campbell hang out.

BOTTOM  Movie stills from the Campbells’ “Midnight Skater” and “Teenage Zombie House Massacre” and Larry Housel’s “Dev/Null.”

OPENING SPREAD  Actor Cory Maidens (far left) “stabs” himself next to the Campbells, producer Andy and director Luke.

While many aspiring filmmakers go to school in New York or Hollywood, Luke says he finds the backdrop of places like Kent and his hometown Sebring much more conducive to artistic expression. "I think I'd be kind of discouraged going to film school because there's so much competition there," he says. "I feel we're the only ones here. There's no pressure from your fellow students. I think that would really get to me personally."

For inspiration, Andy looks to "Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama," while Luke is inspired by Sam Raimi of "The Evil Dead" trilogy and "Spider-Man."

"I just watched a lot of movies in my time," Luke says. "I saw how they did it and just mimicked it in my own way."

The last time the university offered film production classes was in the '80s. The few classes, which taught students to shoot and edit on 16mm film, faded away along with the professors who supported the programs.

Bob West, an emeritus professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, says he would love to see a full-scale film program at the university again. But, he says, it doesn't look like this will happen any time soon.

"They say it's too costly," West says. "In reality, it's too much of a hassle for them. They'd have to create a whole new department, and they're not going to do that."

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication has filled the void the best it can with video and film programming and video production classes, West says. The Campbell brothers used these classes to edit both of their movies, which were shot on 8mm home video.

"Teenage Zombie House Massacre" is a casual, heavily improvised take on the living dead genre, while "Midnight Skater" is a more structured work laced with comical one-liners and severed body parts. With lines like, "That's the best sex I ever had with a dead body whose arm was cut off that I was using to slap my ass," "Midnight Skater" may not be for everyone. West's cult films class has screened "Teenage Zombie House Massacre," and he says the students get a kick out of seeing a movie executed by their peers.

"It's their language, their era, their setup," he says. "If they're laughing, it must be good. It's a little sophomoric for my taste, but what the hell."

Andy knows their efforts aren't meant for much more than amusement.

"We don't have the whole artistic thing toward our writing," Andy says. "It's not really meaningful stuff."

"When you send your movie to

OPPOSITE Fake blood left over from one of the Campbells' slasher movies drips off of Luke Campbell's palm.

LEFT The Campbells make their blood with bulk tomato sauce, red food coloring and milk.

ANDY AND LUKE CAMPBELL'S TOP 10 RULES FOR NO-BUDGET RENEGADE FILMMAKING:

1. Keep in mind whether a scene is actually possible to shoot. For example, a 300-pound gorilla robbing a gas station sounds like a cool scene. But do you really have access to a gorilla or a gas station?

2. What you lack in talent can always be made up for with gory dismemberments.

3. Do not shoot scenes in March involving outdoor nudity if you live in Ohio.

4. In fact, if you live in Ohio, and you value your health, do not shoot any scenes outside until at least April.

5. Watch out for police on bicycles.

6. Make lots of friends who you can convince to work as unpaid "actors."

7. Don't get angry if several of your "actors" show up heavily intoxicated for a shoot.

8. Bulk tomato sauce, red food coloring and a little milk make for a decent, affordable blood mixture.

9. Do not squirt said blood mixture into the eyes of your "actors." It will burn like hell, and they will more than likely leave without finishing the scene.

10. Finally, be prepared to lie to your "actors" and crew. If they have an exam the next morning, and you admit to them that you'll be shooting until around 3 a.m., they probably won't agree to it. Instead, tell them you'll only be shooting for "a couple of hours." And remember, you can never say the words "just 10 more minutes" too many times.
ROLE MODELS

THESE FAMOUS DIRECTORS NEVER WENT TO FILM SCHOOL AND STILL MANAGED TO MAKE GREAT MOVIES. CHECK IT OUT...

Alfred Hitchcock
"Rebecca"
"Lifeboat"
"Psycho"
"Vertigo"
"Rear Window"
"The Birds"

Stanley Kubrick
"Dr. Strangelove"
"Lolita"
"2001: A Space Odyssey"
"A Clockwork Orange"
"Full Metal Jacket"
"The Shining"

Woody Allen
"Annie Hall"
"Hannah and Her Sisters"
"Interiors"
"Manhattan"
"Mighty Aphrodite"
"Bullets Over Broadway"

Tim Burton
"Ed Wood"
"Beetlejuice"
"Edward Scissorhands"
"Batman"
"Batman Returns"
"Sleepy Hollow"

Steven Spielberg
"Jaws"
"ET: The Extraterrestrial"
"Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
"Schindler's List"
"Saving Private Ryan"

James Cameron
"The Abyss"
"Aliens"
"The Terminator"
"T2: Judgment Day"
"True Lies"
"Titanic"
It's a unique situation because we don't really know anything about making movies

Sundance, people get impressed by that kind of stuff. That's not really our style at all."

And Luke says he doesn't plan on being discovered anytime soon.

"It would be great if somebody saw our film and said, 'Hey, this is genius! Let's give these kids some money.' I don't think that's ever going to happen," he says.

But for 1997 graduate Larry Housel, it did happen.

Housel recently completed production on his first feature-length film, the digitally shot "Dev/Null."

The bulk of his $10,000 budget came from local stand-up comedian Parker Matthews. Housel met Matthews in local clubs while performing skits. The pals have a minor-league production company called The Phat 5.

Housel says financial constraints are no reason to forgo a dream of making movies.

"The first thing that everybody asks is, 'How'd you get the money?'" says Housel, a computer technician during the day. "Just start asking people, and you'd be surprised."

Housel dived headfirst into directing his first feature despite his lack of film education.

"It's a unique situation because we don't really know anything about making movies," he says of himself and his crew.

"The whole thing is a learning process. I didn't go to film school. All I know is what I watch when I watch movies and what I'd like to see when I watch."

Housel says he doesn't see attending film school as a reasonable decision.

"If I had 10 grand, that would pay for, what, a semester at NYU?" he says. "I just think through the experience of making movies, I'd learn a lot more."

With "Dev/Null" finished, Housel hopes to take advantage of the money he could make as a working-class filmmaker.

"Being that you can make movies now for thousands of dollars, as opposed to tens of thousands of dollars, I think it's possible to make a movie, sell it, make money off of that movie enough to make another movie and maybe even make a business of it.

"But that's the dream. The reality is I've got to get up and fix computers every day," Housel says.

The Campbell brothers are also looking ahead.

The partially filmed "Poison Sweethearts" is taking a backseat to "Shit-Eating Vampires," which they say will put a new, if not fully welcomed, spin on the oldest of horror staples.

While some filmmakers are selling movies for millions of dollars at film festivals around the world, the Campbells say that they're not missing out.

"We never really take it that seriously," Luke says. "If making movies was your job, you'd take it more seriously.

"I think that would probably take some of the fun out of it."
I see myself as an über-intellectual
Justin Timberlake as I button up my navy blue pea coat. I tighten my thick, multicolored scarf around my neck and return to the stack of compact discs on the desktop. I flip through CDs, looking for something that fits my mood or attitude: Smashing Pumpkins, At The Drive-In, Weezer. I pick Metallica because I want to get my thrash on.

As I walk out of the room, I envision myself in a music video — Carson Daly is saying my name. Then the drums start punching out, and the guitars roar in my ear. When I open the door to the outside, bitter winter air hits me. But I walk a little taller, a little cooler. I saunter.

I've been walking to class wearing headphones for a few years. It's a complement to mood and style, a way of feeling in and feeling out. And it's a shield. I put them on when I want to be left alone.

On the street, people on cell phones and under headphones proceed like scattered atoms in a slow chemical reaction. They come together, then quickly part, barely acknowledging one another's existence.

And while people are physically close, they seem eternally far away.

In 1979 the face of music was altered forever with the release of Sony's Walkman. More than 20 years later, companies are producing evolved versions of the portable music player, such as Apple and its iPod, an MP3 player that holds hours of digital music.

And in 1947, AT&T proposed the idea of a cellular phone to the federal government. Today there are more than 137 million cell phone users worldwide, according to the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association, an industry-lobbying group.

On Wall Street these devices are big business, and across the United States — in high school lockers, corporate offices and on college campuses — they're ubiquitous.

David Perusek thinks they're an example of American culture out of control.

Perusek, anthropology instructor, sits in his small office in Lowry Hall. He leans back often and closes his eyes, his fingers absent toying with the can of Diet Coke that sits on his desk. Three shelves sit against one wall, all overly stacked with books. He looks to the books often, perhaps trying to conjure a name or quote or to remember points he'd like to emphasize.

For Perusek, technologies such as cell phones and headphones aren't inherently evil. But he sees implications and negative reactions to their use. He sees the "compression of time and space."

"(They're) a way of never being in the present and the moment," Perusek says of the devices. He says technology enables users to take everything from home and work wherever they go.

Perusek recalls a cell phone commercial where a man sits in a beautiful country setting. The man's cell phone rings, and a voice cheerily announces that now he can
Above Freshman archaeology major Greg Carr says that every second he isn’t in class he is wearing his headphones.

be in the office at all times.

"It would seem to me," he says, "anyone with an ounce of brains would know that’s precisely what you don’t want to be."

Perusek says cell phones and head­phones are also a way of amusing people at all times, something he calls the "infan­tilization of adults."

“What do people live for?” he asks, his voice rising. “They live for Miller time.”

In the Student Center, students flip open cell phones like Captain Kirk paging the Enterprise, and others in headphones look like R2-D2 on Naboo. They walk across the room preoccupied, eyes trained downward on their devices, as if searching for life’s answers in their palm — thus spoke Motorola.

In the parking lot outside Satterfield Hall, I approach one kid who’s walking briskly while smoking and listening to music through massive, shell-like headphones. I ask him for directions, and he looks slightly surprised as he quickly uncovers his ears. He tersely gives directions and moves away without looking at me. Later I see him sitting alone in the Hub, listening to music and reading.

I’m testing people. What will they do when I ask them for directions while they’re preoccupied?

It’s a test of me, too. Each time I approach someone, I feel as if the person’s face will contort into a hideous expression of disgust. I know what they’re thinking.

In front of Bowman Hall, I approach another student for directions while he chatters quietly on his phone and smokes a cigarette. He turns calmly, unfazed by my interruption, and assists. He asks the person on the other line where White Hall is located. He says she’s actually there now and cheerfully describes the way. I thank him for the help.

Unfortunately, they’re the wrong directions.

Perusek, who teaches introduction to cultural anthropology, explains that cell phones aren’t normally a problem in his classes. Sometimes he’ll note his feelings at the start of a semester. Other times he’ll wait for one to ring.

“Sometimes I just embarrass the person,” he says.

For Perusek, these devices illustrate the power and popularity of consumption in American life.

“We Americans are socialized to consume from the earliest ages,” he says. “Using
a cell phone, even when it's free minutes, is a way of consuming at all times."

According to AT&T Wireless spokeswoman Alexa Kaufman, the college sector is a major piece of the company's business plan.

"It's a really huge market for us," she says. "Younger people are earlier adapters of technology."

And to capitalize on that, AT&T has forged deals with companies like Yahoo! to offer enticements like instant messaging over phones, Kaufman says. She adds that phone manufacturers like Nokia and Motorola even research what colors people might find appealing.

And cell phone companies aren't oblivious to the changing social behaviors of their customers, either.

Cingular Wireless, the second largest wireless provider in America, set up the Web site www.be-sensible.com to promote proper cell phone etiquette, joining other independent sites like www.cellmanners.com and www.phoneybusiness.com.

"We really wanted to own this area, not only cell phone safety, but cell phone courtesy," says Cingular spokesman Clay Owen.

The company suggests turning cell phones to vibrate while in movie theaters and also not making calls in places of worship, Owen says.

Cingular also is opposed to legislation of behavior, preferring the use of common sense to solve safety and courtesy matters.

"We thought it was a good idea to get ahead of this issue," he says.

Kaufman says AT&T Wireless monitors social research on cell phone behavior and also engages in promotion of proper cell phone etiquette through publications and in-store brochures.

"I've been in a restaurant when a guy is yapping on a phone, and I can understand that," she says. "People need to be cognizant of the world around them."

"It's too early to judge how new technology like cell phones and headphones are affecting human communication," says Margaret Finucane, assistant professor of communications at John Carroll University.

Certain observations can be drawn about a new social fabric growing in this country, though.

For example, she says, some people can

ABOVE Fine arts major Kevin Coleman makes a call in the Hub on his cell phone. He says he spends about two hours each day talking on his phone.
imply they are more important by ignoring others around them while listening to music or making calls.

Finucane remembers a time when she was ignored by a cashier at a grocery store because the woman was busy talking on a cell phone.

"One of the things we see is we're no longer involved with our immediate environment," she says.

And the devices change how we communicate with people we already know, Finucane says. Some research suggests that devices like cell phones break down social relations, and other studies say they build stronger ties.

"Using a cell phone to remain connected to others allows people to communicate regardless of their location — meaning that they transcend space and time to remain connected," Finucane says. "I think that the issue is how or why people are using the cell phone as to whether it is isolating or connecting."

She says some young people are drawn toward cell phones and headphones for instant gratification, mobility and utility.

"When we want it, we can get it," Finucane says.

Outside the air has become warmer. More people are out walking to class. For the most part, they trudge forward, looking toward the ground or straight ahead.

I approach one kid who is walking alone with his head down. I ask him where the university keeps its atomic robots.

He looks at me, trying not to laugh, and says he's never heard of the Kent State Atomic Robot Center before. I stare back like I don't believe him before thanking him and continuing on.

I can understand his confusion — because I made it up.

Near the residence halls, I see someone talking on a cell phone. I hurry and ask for the way to Flannery Hall. He says he doesn't think that building even exists, and I mention that a swing set is supposed to be near it. He apologizes politely for being of no help.


Freshman Nicole Bertone says she takes her cell phone everywhere.
“I use it a lot,” she says. “I talk on it between five and 10 times a day.”

Bertone, a freshman undecided major, says she uses her phone to call home to Willoughby to talk to her mom and boyfriend.

This is her second semester, and her phone has been a mixed blessing.

“It’s my freshman year security blanket, but I think I use it way too much,” she says.

She says her phone has made it hard to meet new friends at school and create her own life. With it near, she knows she can always call home when she’s lonely.

“Pretty much I’m always by myself because I’m talking on my cell phone,” she says, adding that she often eats lunch alone while talking on her phone.

In the United States, few studies have been conducted on the social effects of devices like cell phones and headphones, Finucane says. However, in European countries, particularly Finland, great amounts of research have been done because they have adopted the new technology faster than Americans.

Finucane, a 1999 Kent State doctoral graduate, and two other Kent State alumni working at John Carroll, are studying the effects of new technology — primarily Internet technologies like instant messaging — on interpersonal relations. In the fall, they intend to study the effects of cell phone usage.

“We want people to report on how and why they are using cell phones for interaction and whether they perceive cell phones to be the equivalent to face-to-face interaction,” Finucane says.

In the Hub one evening, Bertone and her friend sit at a table together for dinner, both talking on their cell phones.

“She was talking to her boyfriend, and I was talking to mine,” Bertone says later. “That happens a lot.”

“It was our little moment when we could talk to our boys,” she says.

At school and among friends, cell phones pervade daily life, Bertone says. “Everyone has one. All my friends have one. It’s very common,” she says. “Even my grandparents have one.”

Perusek, the anthropology instructor, pictures a country of alienation

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GO AWAY!
FAR, FAR AWAY!!

STUDY ABROAD

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when he ponders the effects of new technologies like headphones and cell phones. “Someone may want to ask you for directions, but they’re not going to,” he says. “Who knows — that could be the love of your life.”

The primary way of making connections and meeting new people, Finucane says, comes from seeing similarities in others and being around them often. But it’s hard to break the ice if people are creating a shell, she says. And creating shells isn’t a new thing.

“Prior to cell phones and personal Walkmans, we know that people used nonverbal messages to indicate a desire to be left alone,” she says. “They would generally allow greater distances between themselves and others, avoid eye contact and be careful not to allow others to touch them when in close proximity.”

Perusek doesn’t own a cell phone, but he owns a Walkman, which he enjoys. He’s adamant that he doesn’t reject the technologies themselves. “Technology is neutral. But what matters is how technology is used and to what ends and who controls technology,” he says.

The true alienation is a separation from oneself, he says.
John Tatara checks his voicemail as he

"(People are) constantly on call, constantly tuned to the external," Perusek says. "Where is there space for any inner dialogue, to think?"

On a Campus Loop bus, the driver turns wide and fast around the corner of Summit and Lincoln streets. I close my eyes and think we're going to crash in a ball of flames as we roar down the small hill. I open them and relax because we didn't hit anyone.

Behind me I still hear the blond girl chattering on her phone, and Brian Wilson is still singing in my ears about surfing. But besides that, the bus is silent, and I wonder if everyone is contemplating our seemingly near-death experience.

Outside the air is cold, and the snow won't melt, making the ground look like white sand in some frigid Midwest Sahara. I'm not taking off my headphones because they accompany my varying moods ... and they keep my ears warm without messing up my hair.

People do seem more isolated now, but I don't blame myself. Even if I am disconnecting myself from the world with music, I do it for a reason. I don't have time to take a nap or read a book in a quiet room. I get my private time on the move.

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FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL:
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672-2322
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PROMOTION
672-2320

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TU, W 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FRI 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SAT 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DeWeese Health Center
Eastway Drive
Ambulance Service
On Campus call 911
KSU ANIME SOCIETY
The people who grew up with Power Rangers and Pokémon are going to high school and watching more mature anime

Mickey Mouse has never morphed into a fiery dragon in order to battle space aliens — nor will he ever.

And students who favor anime over traditional American animation can turn to the KSU Anime Society.

Anime, a style of animation developed in Japan and characterized by stylized art, futuristic settings, violence and occasional sex scenes, is growing in popularity, says James Filbert, president of the KSU Anime Society. "Anime was something different for kids to watch," he says. "Now the people who grew up with Power Rangers and Pokémon are going to high school and watching more mature anime."

Filbert says the 90-member club receives subtitled, unlicensed anime films over the Internet from Japan.

Although anime is sometimes associated with adult-only content, Filbert says the club doesn't watch inappropriate material.

"You can watch it, but we are not going to," he says.

Filbert says the club instead watches anime targeted toward junior high and high school ages.

GREEN DRAGON KUNG FU CLUB
You won't become Joe the Dragon Killer in six to eight weeks

The Green Dragon Kung Fu Club was started in 1971 as an intramural club for students who wanted to learn the basics of classical Chinese martial arts. The club receives no funding from the university, so students pay a due of $40 each semester. Membership varies between 20 and 40 people.

David Taylor, a recent fine arts graduate, says he thinks it is interesting "knowing what you're doing is 1,000 years old."

Vanessa Rancour, freshman undecided major, says she joined the club last semester because she enjoys Jackie Chan movies, but she soon found out that club members don't like these movies because they are too flashy.

"What you see in movies isn't real, and here you get to do real fighting," Rancour says. "There's no crazy flying kicks like you see in movies."

Jeanne Cross, one of the club's five managers, says the group often watches videos that conveys what kung fu is really like to show members what to expect.

"You won't become Joe the Dragon Killer in six to eight weeks," Cross says.

EVIL GENIUSES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
We're not all blatantly evil — we try to hide it

When the Evil Geniuses for a Better Tomorrow convene, a solid five hours of gaming follows with a plethora of playing cards, game pieces and dice.

The Evil Geniuses is a society that plays board games, along with card games and occasional video games. You won't find Monopoly or Parcheesi among its stockpile. This crowd thrives on titles most people have never heard of.

The Evil Geniuses first got together in 1999. Jeremy Fridy, senior history major and current "provisional dictator" of the Evil Geniuses, was looking for someone to play with. Now about 15 regular players come together each week.

The club usually plays strategic war games from Europe, where board games are more common, Fridy says.

Despite the competitive edge, the atmosphere among the Evil Geniuses remains very social.

Rounds of games are punctuated with the detailed reading of directions, bragging about recent exploits and teasing members who live and breathe Risk 2010.
FENCING CLUB

As a rule, a fencer will give you the shirt off his or her back

After a quick run, some stretching and footwork drills, the equipment is finally dragged out.

The sound of thin blades striking soon echoes in the Gym Annex as students strategically sidestep their opponents, studying every move.

The sport of fencing is much like a game of chess, but physical.

Jacob Sebens, sophomore philosophy major, has been a member of the Kent Fencing Club for two years, a club he says has been around for as long as anyone can remember.

"I do it because I can, in one night, get a great deal of exercise, win and lose, learn something about how people think," he says. "Mostly, it's because it's fun."

The fencing club has about 20 regular members.

"What keeps me fencing is the people — good people, good exercise, good fun," Sebens says. "As a rule, a fencer will give you the shirt off his or her back if you need it."

KSU PAINTBALL CLUB

You can shoot at someone and get shot back at without anyone getting hurt

Adam Riedel is handy with paint and is not afraid to splatter it all over impending enemies. In fall 2002, the junior aeronautics major and 12 other students formed the KSU Paintball Club.

The group meets at local fields armed with the proper equipment — a protective face mask, paintball marker and carbon dioxide tank — for an intense session of tag, hide and seek, capture the flag and other war games.

Paintball has come a long way since 1970, when it was first patented by the Daisy company for marking trees and cows. While the club is simply a social activity for enthusiasts, a much larger, competitive arena has exploded around the United States, Australia and England.

"The adrenaline rush gained from the intensity of the games is an awesome rush," Riedel says. "It is one of the few times that you can shoot at someone and get shot back at without anyone getting hurt."

KSU DODGEBALL CLUB

When you're out, you're out

The KSU Dodgeball Club is bringing back an elementary school playground game with one goal: slam opponents with a rubber ball and be the last dodger standing.

The club, founded by Olsen Ebright and Nick Fantozzi, was started last semester with about 15 members. The number has now grown to nearly 70.

Fantozzi compares the club to "Fight Club" because it started small, and then an underground word-of-mouth created the team that exists today.

During their weekly meets, the club plays between five and six games. The members usually split in half and play each other, but occasionally other colleges, such as Ohio State University, lay down a challenge.

Brian Wattenschaidt, sophomore industrial technology major, says playing dodgeball is a safe way to take out aggression.

Although Wattenschaidt says no one has been seriously hurt playing the game, people have been hit in the head, and a couple pairs of glasses have been broken.

Yates says the members play by the rules — for the most part.

"When you're out, you're out.

"But sometimes we hit people on their way out just for fun," he says.

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No matter how much the use of certain words may be frowned upon, even "ain't" eventually made it into the dictionary. And in the last couple of years Merriam-Webster added some interesting new words and definitions to old words that can justify any slip of the slang tongue. The Burr put Kent State students to the test to see how their definitions compare to Webser's.

**Booty**
Matt Hovencamp
Senior technology major:
"A nice rump roast ready for spanking. It's definitely a positive thing — a good noun."

Webster:
Buttocks, female genitals, sexual intercourse, perhaps ultimately from bottom

**Chipotle**
Dennis Menefeed
Freshman pre-journalism major:
"It means she is hot. She's caliente."

Webster:
A smoked and usually dried jalapeno

**Eye Candy**
Dane Boykin
Freshman business major:
"A sexy woman. Gorgeous, gorgeous. Her demeanor is above the rest."

Webster:
Something superficially attractive to look at

**Skanky**
Adam Howard
Senior theatre major:
"Any low-rent sexual immorality — in a cheap way."

Webster:
Repugnant, filthy or squalid; of low or sleazy character

**Fashionista**
Aileen Ruane
Sophomore theatre major:
"Somebody, in a pretentious sort of way, tries to be at the height of fashion. If they don’t look good 24/7, they are in a bad mood."

Webster:
A designer, promoter or follower of the latest fashions

**Jones**
Aaron Korora
Sophomore sociology major:
"I think of it as, ‘Oh God, I haven’t smoked pot in three days!’"

Webster:
Habit, addiction; especially addiction to heroin; an avid desire or appetite for something; craving

**Thong**
Jon Bartels
Sophomore computer science major:
"The most comfortable pair of women’s underwear."

Webster:
A garment consisting of a narrow strip of fabric fitting between the legs and a waistband that is worn as underwear or the bottom piece of a bikini

**Electronica**
Karyn Osielski
Sophomore physics major:
"Stuff my mom listens to — like the NOW CD with remixed techno."

Webster:
Dance music featuring extensive use of synthesizers, electronic percussion and samples of recorded music or sound

**THE HOW AND WHY**
We've used words like "booty" and "skanky" since high school, so why are they just recently being added to the dictionary?

Maria Sansalone, associate editor in cross-reference at Merriam-Webster, explains that it has to do with a lot more than us just saying the words.

New words are made up every day, but it could take years before any of them are common enough to be added to one of the company's dictionaries, she says.

New words or new meanings to old words usually first appear in spoken language. But how often those words are printed in magazines and newspapers, or even on billboards and soup cans, is what Merriam-Webster spends time documenting each day.

Since 1993, when Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 10th Edition was first published, it has been updated every year by incorporating the changes into the original pages of the book.
LESSONS LEARNED

Kent State offers inmates classes to prepare them for the outside and keep them there

Gregory Paramore, inmate No. 33690225D4, had not seen his mother since his incarceration. The youngest brother of five, he distinguished himself by becoming the first one arrested and jailed. The offense: felonious assault. Paramore was left behind bars to reflect alone. Three years in prison had passed before Paramore was finally able to see his mother again.

To see her, Paramore, then 27, was transported two and one-half hours from prison to Youngstown. Visitation rules required shackles on both his ankles and wrists.

"I never wanted my mother to see me like that," Paramore says, holding up his wrists. The chains are gone, but his state-issued prison blues remain.

Paramore shuffled his feet toward his mother, officers in tow. With trepidation, Paramore peered over his mother’s casket, and his legs gave out underneath him.

"When I saw her, I felt faint, and my knees buckled," Paramore says softly. "The guards didn’t know what to do so they put their hands on their guns. The funeral director brought me a chair to sit on."

Paramore’s mother had died of an aneurysm while he was in prison. Because prison policy forbade him to attend the funeral, a private visitation was arranged. Private visitation in prison terms means two guards, their guns and enough chain to suppress any rebellious intentions.

Seeing his mother lying there was a turning point for Paramore — the drinking, partying and trouble that brought him to prison needed to stop.

"I never had a chance to talk to her since prison," he says. "I knew she had forgiven me. It was at that point I realized I really needed to get things together."

After his mother’s death, Paramore enrolled in Lake Erie Correctional Institution’s Outreach Program through Kent State’s Ashtabula campus. By taking college courses applicable to a degree, Paramore, now 31, is planning a career in advertising. More than 100 other inmates are also taking courses at the institution in Conneaut, learning computer and business concepts to rebuild their reputations and master new skills to remain competitive in the real world.
Von Derek Knuckles, convicted of murder, uses college courses as a diversion from prison life.
Kent State's Outreach Program isn't the only aspect of Lake Erie Correctional Institution's college-like atmosphere. The prison itself is a wide ring of buildings with a central courtyard. It has a church, a general store and a place to get some chow. If it wasn't for the surrounding razor wire and occasional correctional officer, an inmate might feel like he has entered a quaint Ohio campus — sans the option to transfer, of course.

Inmates live in large dormitories — not cells. There isn't an iron bar in sight. But there are a couple officers ready each night to tuck the inmates securely into bed in the 250-man bedrooms.

Walking from their dorms over the plush green yards, inmates can stop to eat at the cafeteria — adorned with inmate-painted murals — as well as visit the chapel for some religious solace.

Inmates with jobs on the inside can use funds to buy items at the general store, such as nicer toiletries than complimentary prison-issue.

But even with these niceties, the "campus" still has one building marked "Segregation."

"It's the hole," explains Joyce Shelestak, one of the directors of the program.

This is where inmates unwilling to abide by the rules get to sit alone for a while.

This type of prison obviously does not fit the stereotypes found in "The Shawshank Redemption" or "Cool Hand Luke."

Shelestak says this 3-year-old institution is part of an experiment in Ohio. Unlike most correctional facilities in the state, this one is privately owned and operated by a Utah-based company, Management and Training Corp.

The company, which runs 17 facilities in six states (10 in Texas), states that its mission in corrections is to "provide the academic, vocational and workplace readiness skills to enable offenders to re-enter society as productive, self-sufficient, tax-paying workers, citizens and family members."

But these inmates aren't exactly living it up on the taxpayer's dime. Inmate John Stone, serving time for felonious assault, puts it simply.

"I hate it here."
Joyce Shelestak and Judy Wareham walk across the prison yard toward their classrooms while hundreds of inmates walk by on their way to the mess hall. The occasional inmate shouts a “Hello, Mrs. Shelestak. Hello, Mrs. Wareham.”

These two women serve as directors for Kent State’s Outreach Program, which helps provide a college education for those unable to attain it. Shelestak and Wareham walk across the entire yard each day, but it has never been a problem. They have been working with students at the prison since 2000, when the facility was built.

“I never feel threatened,” Shelestak says, passing a group of burly inmates who all tower over her. “The only differences between these students are that they are all dressed in blue, and they don’t go home at night.”

Wareham says she sometimes forgets criminals and barbed wire surround her because it feels so natural. “You can almost get too comfortable,” she says. “I think of them as students, like they are on a campus.”

No correctional officers are required to escort the women in the medium-security institution, although they are always watching on surveillance cameras. The prison does have one precautionary measure, though. The women each have a “man down” button on a chain that can be pressed whenever they feel threatened by an inmate.

“And boy do they come running,” Wareham says, laughing. She and Shelestak have never actually needed to use the button, but Wareham accidentally activated hers once.

“And, boy, do they come running,” she says with a laugh.

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, inmates attend a number of classes taught by several instructors. Courses range from English to computer-assisted drafting.

John Godlewski, adjunct instructor of business, says all he has to do is come in and teach—the prison atmosphere is not intimidating when students are so willing to learn.

“As far as how motivated these guys are, I’ll take some of these guys over some of those campus students anytime,” he says.

Godlewski has taught about 10 courses at the prison over the past two years. Classes are offered in fall, spring and summer sessions, like at all Kent State campuses.

Instructors teach from a podium while the students sit at tables or desks. Inmates are permitted and encouraged to write notes with pencils and pens.

Large windows are built into every wall, permitting teachers and, more importantly, correctional officers to see all 12 classrooms at once. Should a problem arise in a room, the officer on duty would respond instantly. Marilynn McQueen, deputy warden, says an incident has yet to occur in a classroom.

“It’s a lot safer than public schools these days,” McQueen says. “The inmates have to behave. They all know that one miscue, and they are out.”

Instructor Judy Knight teaches computer courses to inmates. Knight says she uses mutual respect to build a strong relationship with the inmates.

At times it can be difficult, though, because any personal conversation or intimacy is strictly prohibited between student and teacher, Shelestak says. The main rule is that Knight is always “Ms. Knight” and each inmate is a “Mr.” No first names are allowed because they imply a personal relationship.

Some inmates say they don’t mind the “Mr.” when they are normally referred to as “Hey, you” by the correctional officers.

Although Knight says the classroom facilities are sufficient, the prison presents some obstacles. The Internet, for example, is prohibited by state law in the prison, Knight says. To compensate for this, Knight uses a simulation of the Internet.

“I am trying to teach them,” she says. “I have to say, ‘This is what it should look like when you use it.’ We need to have computers without those limitations to teach.”

In addition to the Internet problem, Knight says certain computer functions are no longer accessible to the inmates because of misbehavior. Students are no longer able to use the right click function on the mouse or access the start menu because system files have been deleted.

Knight says these rules just make it harder for inmates to conceptualize what a real
A guard at the Lake Erie Correctional Institution stands watch.

Joyce Shelestak sits in her office at the prison. She says she never feels threatened by her students.

Shelestak and Judy Wareham are both armed with "man down" buttons in case of trouble.

As far as how motivated these guys are, I'll take some of them over some of those campus students anytime.

Von Derek Knuckles, 33, is serving 15 years to life for murder. Knuckles says his seven and one-half years of prison have diminished his aggression and heightened his desire to learn.

"I've been incident-free and hole-free for the last two years," Knuckles says. "I am keeping myself out of trouble by being in school."

Not all of the inmates avoid problems in the facility, though. They are permitted to wander the yard during the day, visit the chapel or just spend time in the dormitories, which each house more than 200 criminal offenders. The facility itself houses more than 1,370 inmates.

"This atmosphere can be influential for trouble," Knuckles says. "A lot of guys younger than me are following the trends, getting in gangs. It's not on the surface, but there are members of the Crips, the Bloods and the Folks in here."

Knuckles claims he is innocent of murder but admits to some "dibble-dabbling in illegal activity" in the past, including selling drugs. Thanks to his business courses, Knuckles says he hopes to get into retail and open his own store to sell electronics or clothes. He is also looking into opening a restaurant.

"I'm kickin' around a few ideas," he says with a sly smile. Knuckles has at least two more years to brainstorm. His parole hearing is set for 2005.

Classes in prison do more for Knuckles than open up doors to his future. He says his schoolwork helps him forget about the barbed wire, fighting and lock-downs of prison life.

"I love school. It inspires me through listening and talking about real-world experiences," Knuckles says. "It's twice a week that I'm not even here. I'm out on the streets and going to school."

Some escapism is pleasant for Knuckles, who says he hasn't seen or heard from his son and two daughters since 1997.

"It's hard, but I try not to think about it," he says. "Negativity keeps people here."

Chris Pisarchik, 26, says his immaturity as a youth led to his incarceration.

"Before I came to prison, I thought I knew everything," he says. "I would do things the way I wanted to. I have changed my whole thought process."

Pisarchik's grandmother, Gloria Yoder, says nobody supported him when he was
An inmate studies at his leisure inside the high walls of the prison.

But while some of his classmates will sit and study for years to come, Pisarchik is now starting a new life. After serving his three years for illegal manufacturing of methamphetamines (speed was his drug of choice), Pisarchik left prison with a certificate in business. But thanks to his Kent State courses, Pisarchik says he has gotten deep into philosophy, mainly the works of Plato. He unabashedly states that he was one of the prison’s finest students.

Yoder says that Pisarchik’s father is going to give him a place to stay in Texas and pay for him to attend a university. Pisarchik says he hopes to stay out of trouble in the future.

“It’s going to be a lot easier to stay focused with my dad,” Pisarchik says. “I’m taking myself out of the same situation with my friends in Ohio.”

John Stone, 42, is another one of the institution’s honors students. With a grade point average of 3.72, he qualifies to live in the prison’s honors dormitory.

“It’s a lot better in there,” Stone says. “In the other dorms there are 250 guys screamin’ and hollerin’. I used to get up in the morning and have to wait a half-hour to use the toilet.”

While now an honors student, Stone says his life before prison included excessive drinking and violence. Stone was sentenced to three years after beating his wife, who he suspected of cheating on him.

“Alcohol played the whole role in my life,” Stone says. “I didn’t realize I was an alcoholic. I’d go to work, come home, slam a 12-pack, and everything would be fine. It led to violence.”

In addition to schooling, Stone took part in the prison’s rehabilitation program and joined Alcoholics Anonymous.

“I took the recovery program and anger management,” Stone says. “I am doing everything I can to better myself. This
ain't no type of life."

Stone's mother, Loma, has continued to visit him throughout his incarceration and says she has witnessed a transformation.

"He was never violent at home, but he did have a temper," she says. "Now he's calm, and he has a better attitude toward everything."

Loma says her son comes from a family of alcoholics, including her husband and three of John's brothers, all of whom have since stopped drinking.

"I know it's hereditary," she says.

Stone says getting an education was not the main reason why he enrolled in the courses.

"You take classes to get out of other work like kitchen detail," he says. "There's a few guys who did that, and I was one of 'em."

In addition to avoiding labor, some inmates are rewarded with reduced sentencing, Deputy Warden McQueen says.

As long as the sentence is not deemed mandatory by a judge, each month of classes takes a day off an inmate's sentence, she says.

Stone will be released in July, and he says he will enroll in courses at the Ashtabula campus. He will go back to roofing but now has plans to start his own roofing company.

"Prison has a stricter policy."

In addition, students must get a C or better in the course or it will not count for credit.

"What's really good is to see someone start out with a negative attitude, then see them really change and get into it," she says. "It's good to see them become someone who cares."

Those inmates who meet the qualifications, follow the rules and stick with the 22-hour programs are awarded with an end-of-semester graduation. Inmates such as Stone have already experienced one graduation and are working hard for another certificate.

Unlike traditional ceremonies, caps and gowns are not allowed. Rather, inmates are dressed in their standard blues, institution number included, for proud family and friends to see.

Each inmate is allowed to invite two people from the outside world to attend the event, if on the list of acceptable visitors.

Stone says he chose to have his mother in attendance.

"She came to my first graduation," he says. "It felt good to have one accomplished."

Graduates receive a portfolio, including their resume, certificate and letter from the dean of the Ashtabula campus.

Two family members visited Paramore, who lost his mother, when he received his graduation certificate in business.

In 18 months he will be released and reunited with his family. Paramore says he knows getting out of prison is going to be an adjustment, but it's one he's been preparing for. Despite the stigma his criminal record carries, he says he's ready for reality.

"I've wanted to get out of prison for a long time now," he says. "I know there will be obstacles. I'm not looking for it to be easy. There'll be some doors slammed and some doors opened up. I realize I have a life out there. I regret some of the things I've done, but in the same breath, better things are coming."

"I realize I have a life out there. I regret some of the things I've done, but in the same breath, better things are coming."

Name: John Stone
Charge: Assault, domestic violence
Sentence: Two years
Career Goal: Continue job in roofing

"I took the recovery program and anger management. I am doing everything I can to better myself."

Name: Von Derek Knuckles
Charge: Murder
Sentence: 15 years to life
Career Goal: Open his own store

"I've been incident-free and hole-free for the last two years. I am keeping myself out of trouble by being in school."
A transgender student reveals how she became he

When Colleen, whose name means "girl," went away to college, she found a boy named Logan. He had spiky, red hair, a tongue stud and a labret piercing. He kept a wad of chewing tobacco in his cheek and spat into an empty Pepsi bottle. Despite his rough exterior, Logan treated women with respect. He was known for his sensitivity.

Colleen McGarrity had found Logan within herself. Since the age of 19, she has lived as Logan. For the first 19 years, McGarrity struggled through a failed engagement to a man, a period of bisexual exploration and a brief stint as a lesbian before she could identify her feelings.

On a level deeper than the baseball cap and loose-fitting jeans she'd always worn — beyond sexuality and in direct opposition to her physiology — she felt male.

In February 2002, she explained these feelings to her girlfriend at the time, who was very supportive. Together they chose Logan as the name for Colleen's new identity, and this was the moment she became he. Since then, McGarrity, 20, has been in the relatively uncommon position of possessing a gender identity opposite his biological sex. He is a female-to-male transgender.

"I always felt, like, 98 percent male anyway," he says. "All my parents ever wanted was a cute, frou-frou, frilly, little girl. Of course, when I was about 5, I discovered overalls, and that was the end of that."

McGarrity, an exploratory major taking the semester off, says few people mistake him for a woman. Most people refer to him as "sir" at the Akron temporary employment agency where he works. At department stores, he's more likely to get the evil eye from shoppers if he uses the women's fitting rooms rather than the men's. If unisex public restrooms aren't available, McGarrity will go to the men's restroom and use a urinal with the help of a translucent blue, plastic device.

Kim Shroyer, a close friend, says McGarrity has few problems passing as a guy because he presents himself well as a male.

"How you style your hair has a lot to do with it," she says. "Also the way you dress,
ABOVE McGarrity straightens his tie as he dresses for work. He says he is rarely taken for a woman at the Akron temporary employment agency.

the type of bras you wear. You don’t want people to know you have breasts.

“It’s in the way he walks, the way he holds his head. Men don’t seem to look down as much as women do. And Logan makes his voice raspier and deeper than it is sometimes.”

The biggest obstacle to passing as a guy, McGarrity says, is his size. McGarrity is about 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs about 110 pounds.

“A few times, at first glance, people have seen me as a 12-year-old boy.”

“I just haven’t hit puberty yet,” he says jokingly. “That’s why I’m so short.”

People do make other assumptions, however. For instance, in his first semester at the university in fall 2002, he had a professor who used courtesy titles to call on students.

“Once, right in the middle of a test, he called me ‘Miss,’” McGarrity says, crinkling his nose. “So I put down my pencil and said, ‘I need to speak with you in the hall.’”

McGarrity says he calmly told the professor, “I prefer to be called ‘sir’” and then promptly returned to the exam.

“He didn’t say anything. He just had this stunned look on his face,” he says. “He must have stood in the hall another two minutes.”

While McGarrity knows the professor meant no harm, he says others act with obvious malice, like a car full of men he once encountered at a gas station.

“They just kept watching me while one guy went in to pay,” he says. “He comes back, and they start to pull away. But then just before they leave, they all roll down their windows and scream ‘Dyke!’”

But McGarrity isn’t offended by such remarks. He says when he encounters the butch lesbian label, he rarely contests it — he has explained himself too many times. Among strangers, he doesn’t even bother.

“I figure my life does not exist to make others uncomfortable,” he says. “Being trans isn’t the biggest part of me — not even close. So I’d rather people get 75 percent of my life and be comfortable than be forced to take it all in.”

McGarrity encounters the most opposition to his transgender lifestyle from with-
in the lesbian, gay and bisexual community — the very people he seeks support from, he says. While strangers rarely consider him female, his primarily lesbian friends call him by feminine pronouns. Shroyer is one of those friends who has trouble seeing McGarrity as male.

Because she knows McGarrity from a lesbian bar they both frequent, Shroyer says she assumed feminine pronouns were acceptable. McGarrity didn’t correct her until months later.

Shroyer says she’s somewhat masculine like McGarrity but doesn’t feel the need to identify herself as a male.

“I guess it’s just hard for me to relate to what she’s going through,” Shroyer says, shifting in her seat, “just like straight people might have a hard time understanding how someone can be gay, but they still support gay friends. I’m just not experienced with what he feels, so I can’t say I completely understand.”

Shroyer pauses to check her pronouns, slipping between “he” and “she.” Though being called “she” bothers McGarrity, he tolerates it.

“I’m different from a lot of trans people in that I’m not obsessed with the pronouns,” he says. “What they call me isn’t going to change who I am.”

What McGarrity can’t stand, though, is the question, “When are you going to have surgery?”

Without sex-reassignment surgery, he constantly grapples with his identity.

“How many people do you know,” McGarrity asks, “when they go to the health center, and they have to check one of those little boxes — M or F — who have to think about it?”

McGarrity says he faces harassment when he shows identification or pays with a credit card. Both still bear his legal name, Colleen, and his photo before he became transgendered.

He plays for the Kent State rugby team — but on the women’s team. He feels male but dates lesbians. Straight women want what he calls a “bio-boy.”

Before going out, he binds his breasts with an uncomfortable weight-lifting belt or an elastic bandage.

With a legal name change, hormone therapy and sex-reassignment surgeries, McGarrity could theoretically avoid those issues.

Other female-to-male transgenders, like

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LIAM GRICE

TRANSFORMATION

Like Logan, Liam Grice, graduate teaching assistant, knows how it feels to live with a gender that doesn’t match his sex. That’s because he lived the first 37 years of his life as a female.

“I’ve always felt I have a male soul,” he says.

Grice, 38, says he was constantly discouraged from pursuing a gender change.

He was more attracted to women than men from adolescence, he says. Without making the distinction himself, others began to assume he was a lesbian.

At the time, he didn’t have the words to contest the idea.

In October 2001, Grice says he read an article about a female-to-male transgender and strongly identified with the subject.

But he says his girlfriend at the time discouraged him from pursuing gender reassignment by implying she would no longer love him.

“I realized it was more acceptable to be male-ish,” Grice says. “More so than actually being male.”

After the seven-year relationship ended, and Grice figured out what he really wanted, he began taking steps toward becoming male.

Over the past year, he’s started to undergo his change, which has been relatively successful.

“I have the luck of being born tall,” he says. “You don’t see too many 6-foot-tall, 200-pound women walking around.”

Also, his job in the School of Art was never at stake, he says.

“I was able to transition within the department, and people were all either benign or supportive. There was never anything hostile — people take presentation cues pretty readily.”

Grice recently exhibited his latest collection of work titled “Transformations.”

Using mixed media, like wire, metal castings, fabric and glass, Grice says he was able to express an array of ideas surrounding his change from female to male.

“The project was inspired by the idea of an autobiographical narrative as a jumping-off point,” he says, “and eventually focused on gender issues as a whole.”

He says his transformation has been great for artistic inspiration.

“My work is blossoming,” Grice says.
Liam Grice, a graduate teaching assistant in the School of Art, have pursued the procedures with success.

He completed the formal name change in August 2002 and in October began taking testosterone. Grice describes the process as “going through male adolescence at 38 years old.”

“I do feel internally very different,” Grice says. “Drastically different, but not in a weird way. It’s like coming home. I feel like I was lost before. Now I’m more comfortable in my own body.”

Since October his voice has deepened to the point he is no longer called “ma’am” on the phone. His jaw line has adopted a masculine angularity. Grice says he has also noticed some male-pattern hair loss. At 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, it is unlikely he would be taken for a woman.

Grice hopes to get chest reconstruction surgery in the summer.

But for McGarrity, the prospect of undergoing the physical transition is frightening.

“It scares the shit out of me,” he says. “That’s just a huge decision. That’s irreversibly life changing.

“I mean, my mom hates that I wear men’s clothing. She hates that I cut my hair. I can’t imagine her reaction if I came home with a goatee.”

It’s simply not a priority for McGarrity.

“I figure, I’m 20 years old. I’ve got lots of time.” he says. “If I have to put it on hold for eight years, 10 years or longer, then get whatever surgeries I might want, I’ve still got plenty of time to be who I want to be.”

And though his family is already somewhat estranged, McGarrity says he hopes their relationship can be salvaged. He swallows each “Colleen” with a grain of salt and remains as low key as possible when around them.

“My mom’s still hoping it’s just a phase,” he says. “When I talk to her, she never wants to hear about it. If she asks if something is wrong, and I say so-and-so broke up with me, she’ll get quiet and change the subject.

“What I hope she’ll understand someday is whether I get my heart broken by a man or a woman, it hurts the same.”

McGarrity says he is bothered that people like his mother view lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals as victims of their own choices.

“That’s a big problem,” he says. “People think it’s a choice. You can choose to act on it, maybe, but it’s either a part of you, or it’s not. I’m not saying our lives are always hell, but when you consider the shit we have to deal with that the hetero world doesn’t, why the hell we would want to
choose that?"

Though McGarrity struggles with the contradictions inherent to his lifestyle, he manages to lead a relatively normal life for a 20-year-old guy.

"I get out of bed, jump in the shower, put my pants on one leg at a time," he says. "My day isn’t that different from anyone else’s."

His apartment is a textbook bachelor pad. Hair gel and a comb adorn the bathroom sink. Pizza boxes battle unwashed dishes for space on the kitchen counter. Wrinkled clothes litter the bed. A picture of a scantily clad woman serves as his computer’s desktop wallpaper.

Five days a week, he works at the employment agency. For extra cash, he baby-sits and teaches piano. He plays sports, watches sports, talks sports. He goes to the bar on Saturdays. And above all else, he says his friends are his life.

"I have very, very few straight friends," McGarrity says. "And I can honestly say I have no straight male friends."

He says it’s because heterosexuals have difficulty lending support. For that reason, he says, finding and keeping friends within the lesbian community is essential.

"The community becomes the family," he says. "The closeness is, however, both good and bad."

"You know that game, ‘Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon?’" he asks. "We’re lucky if we get two. Everybody knows everybody, and everybody’s dated everybody."

McGarrity gives his friends keys to his apartment just in case they need to get away from the drama of LGBT life. He says it’s not unusual to get a call at 3 a.m. from

**Transgender Hate Crimes**

Since the 1970s, at least 264 transgenders have been murdered out of hate, according to a study by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. The coalition considers this statistic a health issue for transgenders across the globe. These victims have been shot, beaten and tortured for being themselves.

**Dec. 25, 1993**

The most well-known transgender hate crime is the murder of Brandon Teena, due to the success of the film "Boys Don’t Cry," based on his story. Born as a biological female, Teena lived life as a male in Nebraska.

Two of Teena’s male friends discovered his true identity and raped and beat him to death on Christmas day in 1993. One of the men was sentenced to death, and the other was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences.

**June 21, 2001**

Fred Martinez, an openly gay, transgender, Navajo 16-year-old, was murdered in Cortez, Colo. The perpetrator allegedly bragged that he “beat up a fag.” His mother believes that her son’s slaying was based on the fact that he was transgender.

**Oct. 3, 2002**

Gwen Araujo, 17, was beaten, strangled and buried in a shallow grave after attending a party and having her peers discover she was biologically male.

Araujo was the 25th transgender person to be murdered in 2002, according to the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition.

2002 was the deadliest year yet for transgenders. In a study by the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, two-thirds of transgender respondents said they had been physically or sexually assaulted at one time or another.

**Is Hate to Blame?**

While many cases have clear-cut victims of hate crimes (nearly 1,600 victims reported by the FBI in 2000), some remain open-ended.

In August 2002 two transgender females were shot 10 times each in the head and upper body while driving late at night on the streets of Washington.

Deon “Ukea” Davis, 18, and Wilbur “Stephanie” Thomas, 19, were dressed in women’s clothing when another vehicle pulled alongside and shots were fired, the *Washington Blade* reported.

Police have no suspects but have yet to rule out the possibility of a hate crime.

In February, the body of transgender female Niki Nicholas, 19, was found outside Detroit with a fatal gunshot wound to the head. Niki, born Anthony Lionell Nicholas, was also badly beaten, according to GenderPAC, which believes this is evidence enough to prove a hate crime was committed.

Police consider the case a homicide and are investigating further.
Identifying members of the LGBT community may be confusing, especially when gender lines and societal expectations are becoming blurred. Here are some of the most commonly used transgender terms:

**Transgender**
A person who lives in a gender opposite his or her anatomical sex. Also the umbrella term that covers all individuals who cross the gender line, including transsexuals and cross-dressers.

**Drag Queen**
A man who wears women's clothing occasionally without attempting to be convincing.

**Drag King**
A woman who wears men's clothing occasionally without attempting to be convincing.

**Transvestite**
A person who enjoys wearing clothes by the opposite gender, also known as a cross-dresser.

**Transsexual**
A person whose sexual identity is opposite his or her assignment at birth who may or may not undergo a sex-change operation.

**Intersex**
A person with full or partial male and female sex organs, also known as a hermaphrodite.

**Androgynous**
A person appearing or identifying as neither a man nor a woman but a gender either mixed or neutral.

**SOURCE:** www.outproud.org.

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My life does not exist to make others uncomfortable. Being trans isn’t the biggest part of me — not even close

---

a friend looking for someone to talk to.

Outside the LGBT community, his closest friends are fellow rugby players.

Though he has to play for the women's team, the "gentlemen's sport" is an outlet for aggression and a source of camaraderie.

And as a team, they have become LGBT allies for McGarrity. He recalls when they came to his performance at a PRIDE! Kent event last year at the Interbelt Nite Club in Akron.

"I thought maybe one or two of them would show up," he says. "Ten members were there to support me. They were there to support the cause, they were there to support me, they were there to support everybody else performing. I almost cried. For a straight person, putting yourself in a situation where you're packed with 60 or 70 lesbians takes nuts."

So for now, with his friends backing him, McGarrity is content, even in the face of ignorance.

"They have a certain level of understanding," he says. "It almost makes up for what I lost with my parents."

McGarrity says his mother still tells him that if he prays enough, he can be straight.

"Mom," he says, "there's not enough prayer in the world."
Q&A:

A controversial therapy is sweeping the country, leaving some to believe that one can be cured of being gay. It's sexual reorientation therapy, or conversion therapy, and a program may be popping up in a ministry near you. The treatment, not approved by the American Psychological Association, works to convert homosexuals to heterosexuals. It is used in support groups and seminars, often in religious settings. Its effectiveness is debatable, and two local professionals, knowledgeable on the subject, tell The Burr what they think of the therapy.

Pastor Wes Hartzfeld is a minister at The Chapel, a nondenominational Christian church on The University of Akron campus, and is the founder of the Kent State chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ. He also provides pastoral guidance for Genesis Support Group, which works to help individuals overcome homosexuality.

We are not aggressively condemning gay people. If it were known within the church, they would be welcomed. We would treat them no different than an adulterer.

We really feel strongly that a personal relationship with Christ has the power to transform a life. We're devoted to those dealing with temptation and those committed to changing their lifestyle.

What is sexual reorientation therapy?
I would not personally classify what our group does as sexual reorientation therapy. Our group in particular is to help people learn practical ways to overcome their past, change their habits or get a new lifestyle. All of that is based on strong convictions of what scriptures say about homosexuality. Everyone in the group is committed to that.

Is there any evidence that someone can be converted?
Absolutely ... there are hundreds, thousands of people (who have changed).

Why would people want to be converted?
People I've encountered have been struggling with a lot of guilt related to practicing homosexuality. Many that we work with feel guilt about that because they are convicted by what the Bible says. Many are married, and they have homosexual feelings they want to overcome. Relationships are filled with tension and negativity.

Do you see any positive effects of the therapy?
People have been able to come out of that lifestyle and live a straight life. For these people who make those strides, guilt is gone, and it brings new purpose and a new feeling to life. Family and working relationships are improved, and their ability to really progress in life is changed.

What about negative effects?
Certainly the activists would criticize those who wish to change their lifestyle. I'm sure some friends may give them negativity as well.
What is sexual reorientation therapy?
Sexual reorientation therapy is a systematic way to try to alter a person’s belief about their sexual orientation — particularly a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individual — and to try to get them over that so they could just be straight.

Is there any evidence that someone can be converted?
There is a lack of empirical evidence. It is all just hearsay.

Why would people want to be converted?
Probably because they are made to believe that the way they are is wrong, and there is this understanding of normalcy within our culture. And combined with that, they are convinced it is something that can be changed — but more often than not, it is based on some kind of religious guilt or belief.

Do you see any positive effects of the therapy?
I don’t believe there are any at all.

What about negative effects?
The internalization of this idea that something about them is wrong. This also includes all the negative emotions that would go with internalizing a failure. Some examples of that would be depression, lack of self-esteem and the whole continuum of negative emotions. On a personal note, I don’t feel that it is something that can be changed. I feel it is something that is bound to failure.

Lauren Wagner is a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow in Kent State’s Health Education and Promotion program. This is her sixth year teaching human sexuality and other health classes, including health counseling and medical terminology. Wagner strongly opposes sexual reorientation therapy.

I think these therapies are a disgusting attempt by narrow-minded people to impose their moral judgments on something that is none of their business. In the end, they simply pacify homophobes.

They are harmful to everyone. They create a cultural idea that there is only one correct way to be. They make those directly involved feel there is a part of them that is wrong and in need of repair.
In the evolution of education, technology is becoming a force to be reckoned with

Welcome to the Age of Technology. Please leave all chalkboards and textbooks at the door. Fasten your seatbelt, and enjoy the ride. Keep your eyes open – the scenery changes as fast as you blink.

Pop into Room 311A of the Business Administration Building during one of professor Richard Berrong’s French classes. Notice the image of a classroom projected on the white overhead screen.

Berrong looks at the empty room on the screen and cocks his head.

"Ah ha!" he says. "There is Katie."

"Eh, she has disappeared," he says, as the woman walks out of view and another enters.

"That’s not Katie," he says. "Excuse me, ma’am. Can you hear me, ma’am? Katie, are you there?"

The image changes to a different room with a young woman sitting at a long table.

"Oh, they had another campus. We were looking at somebody else," Berrong says, laughing.

Now he’s looking at the right campus, and Katie Bang, who is enrolled in the French composition class, is successfully broadcast to the room.

Berrong is the only teacher in the modern and classical language studies department to teach classes through distance learning.

All eight Kent State campuses have distance-learning classrooms. By using microphones and video cameras, students miles away from the Kent campus can take a course here. In a distance-learning class, an image of the regional campus students is projected onto an overhead screen. All students – both at Kent and the regional campuses – speak into microphones.

Bang is a senior at Hoover High School in North Canton taking post-secondary classes at the Stark campus, 30 miles away.
Professor Richard Berrong teaches French through the distance learning program. She's the only one there enrolled in French composition. "Stark is not going to hire a faculty member to teach one student," Berrong says. "It's either this or nothing." Bang says she's glad the university offers her this option, but it can be trying because both the video and audio systems have problems. "It's really frustrating if I can't hear what the students are saying," she says. "Sometimes professor Berrong's microphone will blank out. It's like, 'What did you say? Will I have to know this for the test?'"

Teneha Thompson, a student in the French class, says she wishes she could have taken the course without the distance learning part of it. Some people aren't prepared for such advances. "It's still kind of new, so we still have some problems," says Thompson, international relations and French major. "Considering all that, it still works pretty well."

And the university is working to make sure its staff and students will be ready for the future of education.

Seven years ago, the College of Education had a single class devoted to technology. Now all education majors take a variety of classes that incorporate technology, says Dale Cook, associate dean of the College of Education. "We realize that teachers have multiple computers in the classroom and Web access in K-12 schools today," he says. "The students, we felt, needed to learn in an environment that could better approximate what they'd encounter in a classroom."

One of the first classes sophomore education major Andrea Brookhart took was based primarily on technology — a basic get-to-know-your-computer class, she says. "I don't like computers. I hate them," Brookhart says. "But I did learn a lot. I never in my life thought I could make a Web page."

A. Raj Chowdhury, dean of the School of Technology, says students and professors have to accept that technology is taking over the classroom. "Did you know green chalkboards are more expensive than one of these?" he asks, placing a hand on his computer.

Mary Tipton, distance learning coordinator at Kent State, explains three ways that technology-based classes are being taught.

**VTel** — Class notes, classmates and maybe even the instructor are seen on large TV monitors in the front of the rooms. Students speak to each other and to the teacher by using microphones at their seats. The system allows classes to be taught to and from any campus. "There are still some technical issues that cause problems in quality," Tipton says. "Some faculty are waiting until the quality improves."

**LearnLinc** — Students have video cameras mounted at their computers, where they see each other and their notes on the monitor. By using microphones and headsets, students are able to communicate with the instructor and each other. Some classes can even be taken at home using LearnLinc via the Internet.

**Web-based** — These classes are taught over the Internet without lectures or textbooks. But Tipton says these classes take much more of a commitment than typical lecture-style classes. "Students don't just sit in a classroom and listen to a lecture," she says. "They have to do a lot of reading and a lot of writing."

ABOVE A Salem student is projected on a screen in a Kent classroom.
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ABOVE Every desk in Berrong's class is equipped with a microphone and computer.

But Michael Tubergen, associate chemistry professor, is stubborn. He relies heavily upon the chalkboard during his daily lessons and sees computers as an inconvenience.

"It's a waste of my time, so I'm reluctant to take 10 minutes, especially if it doesn't add content. It only adds flash," he says.

Foreign language books are hard to digest, Berrong says. So everything his students need is on the Web.

"The traditional way of teaching literature —" He pauses, sits up straighter, pulls down his blazer and lifts his nose, "— is a thing of the past."

Thompson, the Kent campus student in Berrong's class, says having her text online is convenient but also frustrating because she's not very Internet-savvy.

Former student Kathryn Brimelow, who now lives in South Africa, says Berrong's
online text was especially handy when she went to school at Kent State. She took his fall 2000 French composition class.

When Brimelow graduated in August 2002 with a major in international relations, she still had a few more classes to take for a French minor. She used Berrong's Web site to refresh her memory so she could get the minor.

"It's really helpful to have all the materials online, especially the self-exercises, and he has everything well-organized," Brimelow says.

Almost every discipline has at least one room dedicated to distance learning — there are nearly 20 rooms at the Kent campus.

"If I had the money, I'd turn every classroom into a technology classroom," Chowdhury says.

But John Jameson, history department
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About 90 percent of students will attend class in one of these buildings before they leave the university, says Jameson.

From his experience teaching in Bowman Hall, he knows it needs better equipment.

"They literally use duct tape to repair that screen," he says of the overhead projection screen in Room 206. "So what you get is reflected duct tape."

There's really no one to blame for certain classrooms receiving more funding than others.

It essentially comes down to alumni relations, Administration Vice President David Creamer says, who is in charge of university finances.

"Some departments have relationships with alumni and receive support for longer periods of time," he says. "The problem arises because it can be very uneven."

Building maintenance is funded by portions of the state-allocated capital budget, and some departments pay for themselves through student fees.

While Bowman Hall just received renovations to its lecture halls two years ago, the improvements are often outdated in two or three years, Creamer says.
And Bowman and Satterfield halls aren't on the six-year plan, which details what buildings are next in line for renovations.

As an administrator, Chowdhury doesn't have to teach. But he does to keep up with changing technology.

All the courses he teaches are Web-based, which makes for an interesting class, he says.

Some students who take his Web-based classes live in Turkey, India and China or are from the Geauga and Tuscarawas campuses.

"What an excellent way to bring the world together," he says.

Berrong says he never would have thought this kind of teaching was possible when he first started out.

"Times have changed a lot in 26 years, and, in terms of technology, for the better," he says.

"If I continued to teach the same way now that I began 26 years ago, that wouldn't say a lot for me, now would it?" 

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**the BURR** 47
Third-shift custodians don’t mind late nights until the day gets in the way

It’s 4 a.m. on campus. The library and Student Center have long since closed. The late-night trickle of people coming back from the bars has died. The lights that earlier illuminated the hundreds of residence hall windows have faded. A few night owls study or watch television, but most students sleep quietly in their warm beds.

While most slumber, others sweep, mop, dust, scrub, refill, empty, vacuum and wipe. They work until the wee hours of the morning, when many students begin to rise for 7:45 classes or early workouts. It’s the third shift. It’s a tough job, and somebody has to do it.

“It’s hard work — not hard as in difficult — but a lot of manual labor,” says James Champ, a third-shift custodian in Bowman Hall.

Custodial work is divided into three shifts. First-shift workers continuously refill items in the restrooms and empty the garbage. Second-shift workers then come in, do much of the same and prepare the building for third-shift workers. And around mid-
Gene Brown stands in a restroom in the Student Center. He has worked the third shift in the building for 13 years.

Randy Crownoble has worn this badge nightly since he started his job about 11 months ago.

In Bowman Hall, music from a small boom box echoes through the hollow building. The noise helps cover up the strange and surreal sound of silence.

"The calmness can play with your head sometimes," Champ says. "Every once in a while you have a night when you're by yourself, and you hear every little noise. It makes you scared because you know you're all alone."

But the silence of these nights is a small hurdle compared to living life after the late shift.

"It takes some out of your lifespan — everybody can't work through it," says Gene Brown, who has worked the third shift at the Student Center for 13 years.

Getting enough sleep during the day becomes a struggle when interrupted by simple tasks — like going to a doctor's appointment.

"Working the third shift, seven to eight hours of sleep just isn't enough," Champ says. "You can't get continuous sleep because there's stuff you need to do during the day."

With four children at home, Randy Crownoble, a Bowman Hall custodian, has to plan sleep around his schedule and theirs.

He sleeps from 9 a.m. to about noon, and then his kids get home at 4 p.m.

Crownoble says he likes coming home in the morning and getting them to the bus and then making them dinner at night. But he only gets a chance to see his wife in passing, which makes things a little crazy, he says.

"She thought that it would be a lot bet-
It’s nice because at the end of the day, you know what you did. But by 8:15 a.m., what we did doesn’t exist anymore.

Matthew McBrien, 25, works the third shift in the Student Center and goes to class during the day. He says he rarely sees his family and only sees friends between classes on most days.

“The third shift is taking away from my social life since I usually work weekends,” he says. “You’re up, and everyone else is sleeping. When you’re ready to do things, everyone else is at work.”

Brown, 62, has worked nights for much of his life. He says his wife and three children never really minded the hours.

“As long as they’ve got something to eat, they got their toys, and they got their car, they’re happy,” Brown says of his children. “If they saw me more, I’d be telling them to clean their rooms.”

Brown originally applied for the job so his children could attend class for free, and one earned a degree.

Like Brown, many custodial workers on campus take the position so they can send themselves and their families to school for free—a considerable perk to the job.

But day classes and night work don’t always mix well.

“It’s very hard to take classes,” Champ says. “At the most, one to two classes a semester—even two can be pushing it sometimes.”

Champ is not enrolled this semester and says it’s frightening to think about how long it will take him to graduate. Although it’s a hard concept for Champ to swallow, he says it’s better than rushing through school and having a mountain of student loans to pay.

Day-shift custodians have little time to revel in their work before it must be done again. But when third-shift custodians head home to their families, beds or schoolbooks, they leave behind a clean building.

Champ likes that he can see the results of his time and elbow grease.

“It’s nice because at the end of the day, you know what you did,” he says. “But by 8:15 a.m., what we did doesn’t exist anymore.”

Even though custodians say they find fulfillment in their work, they still have pet peeves.

Snow, mud and salt that students track into buildings during the winter make for harder custodial work.

“In the winter, this job can kick your butt,” Champ says.

But any time of the year, students leave
ABOVE  After 12 years of cleaning the University Bookstore, Duane Redd has yet to fully adjust to the demands of the third shift.

ABOVE  Matthew McBriar goes to class during the day and cleans at night. As a Kent State employee, his schooling is free.
ABOVE James Champ, who works the third shift in Bowman Hall, says it's impossible for him to take more than two classes a semester.

plenty of garbage to pick up.

"Sometimes it makes you laugh, the things that students do to these classrooms," Champ says. "One night last week we had to fill the back of a pick-up truck three times with trash."

But Champ says he is most bothered by students' tendency to ignore him while he is at work.

"It's the people that you'll make eye contact with and smile at, and they just look right through you," he says.

Champ recalls times during his shift when he passed students that he knows and talks to and was ignored by them. Champ says that when he is wearing that uniform, he feels he is seen as a lesser human being in the eyes of students. Champ says the job made him realize how poorly people can act toward others.

Students may tend not to acknowledge custodians, but Duane Redd, who has worked the late shift in the University Bookstore the last 12 years, says he doesn't take it personally.

"They don't see you, so they don't know you as a human being," he says.

"They're in college — they're here to get an education, to get ahead. They're not here to be custodians."
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