

Shop on-line at  
www.varsityford.net

## VARSITY FORD

Hundreds of 03's and pre-owned to choose from  
Check out our inventory  
and specials on-line.

College Grad and 1st Time Buyer Program for Internet Users  
Questions? E-mail us at sales@varsityford.net

### DiscoverResearch Inc.

You may qualify for a clinical research study if you have any of the following conditions:

**NECK OR BACK PAIN**

- Recent onset of muscle pain in the neck or back with spasm (involuntary contraction)
- Must be 18 to 75 years of age
- Up to \$200 paid for time and travel.

**FACIAL ACNE**

- Male and Female 12 years of age and older
- Have mild to moderate facial acne
- Reimbursement for time and travel.

**(979) 776-1417 or (888) 438-9586**

Medical assessments, study-related diagnostic tests, and investigational medication are provided to qualified participants at no charge.

## MEREDITH WILLSON'S THE MUSIC MAN

Based on SUSAN STROMAN'S  
Direction and Choreography from the  
2000 Broadway Production



The classic all-American salute to music, romance and fast-talking flim-flam.

Tuesday and Wednesday Nights!  
April 22 and 23 at 7:30 PM  
Rudder Auditorium

**TICKETS**  
Call 845-1234.  
Logon to www.MSCOPAS.org

**MSCOPAS**  
Three Decades of Performing Arts

## CHINA KING

中 皇

### BUFFET RESTAURANT

#### FRESH SEAFOOD BUFFET

- Fresh Oysters
- King Crab Legs
- Salmon
- Mussels
- Sushi
- Roast Duck

**FUN! DELICIOUS! HEALTHY!** Mongolian BBQ available all day long!  
YOUR CHOICE OF FRESH FOOD • MADE WHILE YOU WATCH!

<b>LUNCH BUFFET</b> \$5.55 Mon.-Sat. 11:00am-4:00pm	<b>DINNER BUFFET</b> \$7.75 Mon.-Sat. 4:30pm-9:30pm
--	--

**10% Discount with Student ID**

2402-D Texas Avenue S.  
College Station, TX  
Parkway Square Shopping Center  
(Next to Stein Mart)  
694-7959 • 694-7482

# Ohio U deadly house fire devastates students' neighbors

By Dennis J. Willard  
KRT CAMPUS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — About 1 p.m. Monday, seven men and two women walked slowly in a single line down 17th Avenue toward the yellow brick home.

Each held a bright red rose, and one by one they gently laid them near a picture of five students who were smiling and embracing as they faced the camera.

In the photo, Kyle Raulin, a 21-year-old from West Chester, Ohio, has a cigar in his mouth. He stands near Alan "Big Al" Schlessman, 21, of Perkins Township near Sandusky, Ohio, who is not physically large, but was big in his friends' hearts.

The picture was attached to a sign: "In loving memory of our neighbors. We love you, miss you and we'll never forget you."

The two, along with three visiting students from Ohio University — Erin M. DeMarco, 19, of Plain Township in Stark County,

Ohio; Christine M. Wilson, 19, of Dublin, Ohio; and Andrea Kali Dennis, 20, of suburban Cincinnati — also died in the fire early Sunday near Ohio State University.

Outside the scene Monday, a woman in a tie-dyed shirt wept openly. Some of the students fell into one another's arms.

"We've just got to deal with it," a tall male student said as he indicated that none of the group wanted to talk.

Flowers were also on the steps leading to the porch.

Later in the afternoon, Kristina Ruiz, a 20-year-old sophomore from West Chester, sobbed as she placed yellow daffodils near the picture. She went to high school with Raulin, lived on the same floor in the OSU dorms last year and knew everyone in the house.

She went to the party — to celebrate Schlessman's 21st birthday — and left around 3 a.m. Earlier, there were as many as 70 people in the house, but it was large and the party was not overcrowded, she said. When she left, everything was quiet.

Thick orange twine, strung like a cat's cradle, blocked access to the front and back yards. Each window and door

*"I live in the basement, so I just had water damage, but my roommates that live upstairs, they lost everything."*

— Diana Hawkins  
neighbor

on the ground floor was shuttered with plywood.

On the porch, the springs of a burned couch sat atop charred wood. The white columns extending to the overhang were eaten by fire and blackened by soot. The porch roof, once a sturdy perch for a relaxing stretch in the sun, is weakened and no longer secure.

Although the police are looking into whether there was a fight at the party or an earlier disturbance that led to the fire,

Ruiz has her doubts.

"Never saw one," she mumbled as she stared toward the ground. "They're saying something was thrown in, but I don't think ..."

"They had an altercation with someone at another party, but they didn't want him in this party, but I never saw a fight of any kind, but I wasn't, you know, everywhere," Ruiz said.

"They're all incredible. Incredible ..." and her voice trailed off again.

Next door, Diana Hawkins spent Monday with friends, packing her belongings, salvaging food and dealing with social service agencies for grocery vouchers and with Ohio State for access washers and showers.

Wind had spread the fire to adjacent homes.

Firefighters doused Hawkins' house with water, causing considerable damage. By Monday, side of the three-story home was boarded with plywood.

"I live in the basement, and just had water damage, but my roommates that live upstairs, they lost everything," she said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Federal judge refuses H&R Block suit settlement

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — H&R Block said Wednesday a federal judge has rejected a proposed \$25 million settlement concerning the firms popular tax-refund loans.

In her ruling Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Elaine E. Bucklo in Chicago also ordered that new lawyers be chosen to represent the plaintiffs during subsequent negotiations.

The nation's largest tax preparer and its banking partner, Household Finance, are accused of illegally gouging customers by providing "refund anticipation loans" at interest rates frequently exceeding 100 percent.

Bucklo ruled the plaintiffs' attorneys who

negotiated a deal with Block and Household Finance, which became a participant in Block's loan program after buying Beneficial National Bank in 1999, failed to conduct adequate discovery.

"Settlement counsel never served a single set of interrogatories, or a formal request for documents, and never took a single deposition of an employee of Beneficial, H&R Block, or any of the other released lenders," Bucklo wrote.

Under the refund anticipation loan program, a customer owed a tax refund can receive most of the money in two to three business days. To qualify, the taxpayer must agree to pay up to \$40 to file the return electronically and pay a loan processing fee of up to \$89.95.

Critics assert the loans victimize low-income households, immigrants and financially unsophisticated taxpayers who are inadequately informed about the high interest rates.

The \$25 million settlement would have covered 17 million customers who borrowed against their tax refunds between Jan. 1987, and Oct. 26, 1999. Last year, a federal appeals court instructed Bucklo to review the settlement after concluding the original judge did not do enough to ensure customers weren't shortchanged by the agreement.

Block chairman and chief executive Mark A. Ernst said the company is reviewing Bucklo's ruling and would consider its options.

## Student Car Loan Specialists

# LET LAWRENCE MARSHALL GET YOU INTO A CAR OR TRUCK TODAY!

### Bad Credit... No Credit... Foreign Students

If you've been told you don't qualify for a car loan, call the student loan specialists at Lawrence Marshall. We've been putting students on the road for more than 30 years. Let us get you into a car, truck or SUV with no hype and no hassle.

Call Bob Griffey, Toll Free

## 1-866-540-3600

Even if you've been turned down by another "Special Finance" Lender.

# MARSHALL HEMPSTEAD

Hwy 290 at Bryan/Hwy 6 Exit

### Buy in Hempstead Pay in Hempstead

### PCs

Ever feel sandwiched between a computer to you want? If time for an up

As spring students dust their machines, rate at which mind-boggling years ago or

Once com to replace the where to buy Gateway, Hew

systems feature warranties to cover may appear to But that might

To keep newest and other technology purchase a ne

### For

loo.

By Robe

THE

Forensic p

used to comb

law enforce

criminal inve

Vaughn Brya

fessor and A

oratory head.

Palynology

pollen grain

Forensic pal

science of p

law.

The wide

pollen makes

for any type o

tion, Bryant s

minimal evide

pollen could b

the puzzle.

"Essential

so ubiquitous

be found a

crime scene.

is why I think

we are doin

pollen resear

applicable to

sics," Bryant

"There is usu

much pollen

air that the av

individual inf

about 27

pollen grains

just by walki

doors. That's

works so wel

Despite th

pollen sampl

the scene of

dence, forens

widely practi

yet untapped

Bryant calls "

in forensics."

A pollen s

dence can te

specific local

as the time o

and if evidenc

from its origi

David Jarzen

education at

Botanical Gar

"Palynology

with informa

and season (

place)," Jarze