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The Columbus Dispatch

WWW.DISPATCH.COM

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006

Mentos plus carbonated beverage go fizz, boom!

Teens' Internet videos have taken science experiment global

By **Amanda Kawalek**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

In the empty Ohio Stadium parking lot yesterday, chemist Barry Friedman put on his lab coat and goggles and prepared for the experiment. Friedman and graduate student Bill Schumacher armed themselves with five 2-liter bottles of various sodas and dozens of Mentos candies. What followed was a sticky mess that helps explain what has become an Internet phenomenon.

Teens around the world are creating videos of themselves putting Mentos into pop bottles. The result: 15-foot fountains of soda, or in some cases, Diet Coke bottle rockets.

"Minors should definitely not try it, because you can get hurt."

BARRY FRIEDMAN
OSU chemist

► See the video at www.dispatch.com/multimedia

from a shady area nearby on the grass. First, Schumacher loaded a handful of Mentos into a small paper tube and covered the bottom with an index card. He held both over an open bottle of pop. When he removed the card, the candies fell into the soda, creating a surging, fizzy geyser. Why? Well, it has nothing to do with the chemical makeup of the candy. It's all about the surface texture. Although Mentos appear smooth, their surface is covered with microscopic nooks and crannies

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KYLE ROBERTSON | DISPATCH

Ohio State University chemistry graduate student Bill Schumacher unleashes the power of a couple of Mentos in a 2-liter bottle of Diet Coke in the Ohio Stadium parking lot. The candy's surface texture helps trigger the reaction.

TROOP WITHDRAWAL

Iraq debate heating up in Congress

Political split grows; U.S. deaths at 2,500

By **Liz Sidoti**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Republicans painted Democrats as quitters who advocate a cut-and-run strategy in Iraq. Democrats derided Republicans as foot soldiers for President Bush who refuse to challenge him.

It's not the post-Labor Day congressional campaign season just yet. But you wouldn't know that from divisive election-year debates on Iraq that consumed Congress yesterday as the U.S. death toll in Iraq reached 2,500.

"The Republican Congress sat and watched the administration make mistake after mistake," Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., said.

In turn, Rep. Charles Norwood, R-Ga., attacked war critics as defeatists who do not deserve re-election. "Many, not all, on the other side of the aisle lack the will to win," he said.

Republicans and Democrats alike provided a preview of potential strategies for discussing the three-year-old conflict in the run-up to November's midterm elections.

The Senate soundly rejected a call to withdraw combat

► Information on new leader of al-Qaida in Iraq released | **A3**

► Ohio's lawmakers mostly split down party lines in debate | **A5**

troops by year's end, and House Republicans laid the groundwork for their own vote.

In a move Democrats criticized as gamesmanship, Senate Republicans brought up the withdrawal measure and quickly dispatched it on a 93-6 vote.

The proposal would have allowed "only forces that are critical to completing the mission of standing up Iraqi security forces" to remain in Iraq in 2007.

In a daylong House debate, Republicans defended the Iraq war as a key part of the global fight against terrorism while Democrats assailed President Bush's policies and called for a new direction in the conflict.

"When our freedom is challenged, Americans do not run," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said in remarks laden with references to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

"This is a war that is a grotesque mistake," countered House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California. She called for a fresh strategy — "one that will make us safer, strengthen our military, and

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Microsoft boss powering down

Gates to relinquish his day-to-day role but stay chairman

By **Dave Goldiner**
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates plans to spend more time on global health and education through his foundation.

The world's richest man is quitting his day job.

Bill Gates announced yesterday that he will soon step down from day-to-day work at tech giant Microsoft to concentrate on his charity, which funds the battle against diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

"This was a hard decision for me," said Gates, 50, who is worth more than \$50 billion. "I'm very lucky to have two passions that I feel are so important and so challenging."

Gates, who founded the world's largest software company with childhood friend Paul Allen three decades ago, already had lightened his corporate workload a bit.

He'll stop working every day by 2008 but will remain as chairman. Steve Ballmer, a college buddy of Gates', already is serving as Microsoft's chief executive officer.

"Today is not a retirement,"

Gates said. "It's a reordering of my priorities."

He insisted he was leaving the company in tip-top shape and said a tag team of execs, including software guru Ray Ozzie, would gradually fill his shoes.

Still, observers said the company, whose stock price has stagnated in recent years, wouldn't be the same without Gates.

"Microsoft and Bill Gates are synonymous," said Tim Boyd, an analyst at Caris & Co.

One thing won't change. Gates will still be Microsoft's No. 1 shareholder.

"I'm proud of that," he said.

Since its launch in 1975, Microsoft grabbed a top spot in the new tech economy and now controls software used by 95 percent of personal computers worldwide.

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Some familiar words in Mass to change

Vatican has pushed for revisions to prayers

By **Gillian Flaccus**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The nation's Roman Catholic bishops signed off yesterday on a new English translation for the Mass that would change prayers ingrained

in the memories of millions of American parishioners.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voted at its twice-a-year meeting for a new translation after a brief but vigorous debate over several small changes in wording. The

173-29 vote on the Order of the Mass was aimed at satisfying Vatican calls for a translation that's closer to the Latin version.

Before Mass changes at the parish level, the Americans' version must go to offices in the Holy See for final approval. The bishops' leader on the issue said that process could take years.

"Without a doubt, this is the most significant liturgical action to come before this body for many years," said Bishop Donald Trautman, chairman of the conference's Committee on Liturgy.

"It will take some adapting,"

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No more life in Internet slow lane for rural town

By **Kelly Hassett**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

CHESTERHILL — In a high-speed cyber world, this little town has been doing its best to navigate in what amounts to an Internet horse and buggy.

Ann Horner couldn't grow her Posy Place flower shop because she didn't have a high-speed Internet connection, and dial-up service is too slow to receive orders. So she has been doing it

the old-fashioned way, with a telephone and expensive catalogs that eat up much of her profit.

Like residents of most Appalachian communities, she hoped the Internet would help her village overcome decades of isolation perpetuated by hilly terrain and narrow, winding roads. Only high-speed service would break through the bar-

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ADAM CAIRNS | DISPATCH

Chuck Fox, a cell-phone company worker, checks job assignments on the Internet in Chesterhill in southeastern Ohio.

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