

**In Today's Jambar**

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- thejambar@gmail.com

The YSU softball team competed in the NCAA tournament. See how they fared on **PAGE 2**



# THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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STUDENT LOANS

## Save moola: Here are six steps

By: Maysoun Abdelrasul  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Attention college students: Take the time to read this article because it will tell you how to save money on student loans and all college students need to get every penny while they still can.

As of July 1, interest rates are

projected to jump to 7.2 percent, the highest rate in years. College students are encouraged to take advantage of the current rate of 4.75 percent.

Youngstown State University students can figure out how to consolidate their student loans by following a few steps recommended by

Elaine Ruse, director of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

"My best advice is to combine loans to one category with a fixed interest, with only one payment each month," Ruse said.

She said it is different for each student depending on the different types of loans and the total of the loans.

This is especially critical to students who are graduating, but important for all students to look into the advantages as well as the

disadvantages.

"It is definitely worth looking into while there is still time," she said.

### How to consolidate your debt

**Step 1:** Make sure you have your PIN number from the Department of Education. Go to the YSU Web site, click on the Information About link and follow that to Financial Aid and Scholarships. Then click on "Access Loan History."

**Step 2:** This page will tell you the information you need to access your personal loan history. Click on "Continue to NSLD" (National Student Loan Data System). The link will take you to a national Web site, and then click on "Financial Aid Review."

**Step 3:** Click on the accept button for the terms and agreements. A page will appear asking you to fill in your social security number, first two letters of your last name, date of birth and PIN number. From there you can print out your loan history.

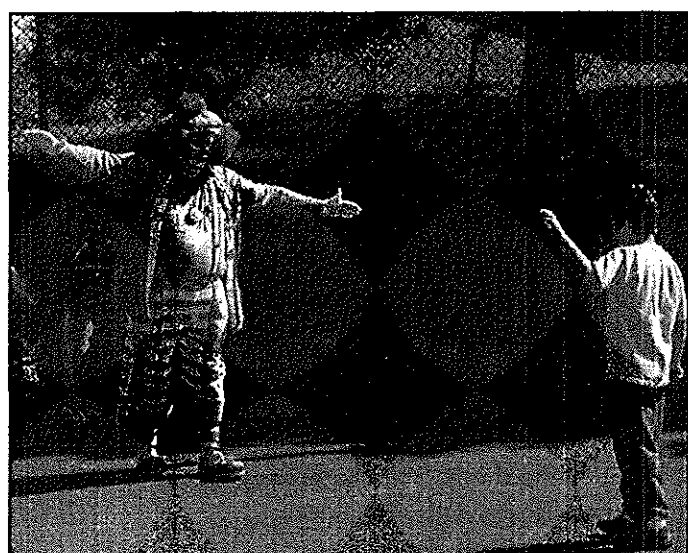
**Step 4:** Enter the Greatlakes website at www.greatlakes.com. Then click on borrowers. On the left side of the page, click on the "About Loan Consolidation" link.

**Step 5:** This page gives information about loans, interests rates, etc. Towards the middle of the page, there is a box, "Impact of Consolidation." Inside the box, click on "Consolidation Calculator."

**Step 6:** Fill out the personal information to estimate the repayment term, monthly payment amounts and total interest rate for each of the available payment plans. Then you choose which plan works best for you.



### Clowning around



Jambar/ Emery Boyle-Scott

"Pokey" the clown entertains children at the Rich Center for Autism's carnival held Wednesday at YSU. Coordinator Jeannette Bailey-Sigle said the annual event is for kids and their parents to have fun and enjoy.

## Business school expansion

### YSU, Youngstown planning together

By: Emery Boyle-Scott  
NEWS EDITOR

Ideas to rejuvenate Youngstown are closely connected with ways to attract more students to the university.

Youngstown State University, partnered with Youngstown city, is planning to redevelop the 38-acre area south of campus bordered by Commerce Street, Lincoln Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Wick Avenue. The South Campus Gateway proposal will build a new Williamson College of Business Administration building, extend Hazel Street north and improve the conditions of the St. Columba Cathedral area.

The new building is slated to be on Phelps, between Rayen and Wood, near the existing building on Lincoln.

The plans will create more than just state of the art space for YSU students. A food court, conference rooms and public activity areas are also in the works for use by students and non-students alike.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration said the goal for this plan is to make YSU more competitive in comparison to other

nearby business programs as well as enhance YSU and the surrounding area.

Ashley Basile, YSU student and president of American Marketing Association, said she thinks the addition to the business school would be beneficial to YSU. Downtown professionals and students will work together more because professionals will be on campus lecturing and holding meetings.

"Students will get real-world experience," she said. At the last Youngstown City Council meeting the council voted to hold a third reading on the South Campus Gateway plan. The next city council meeting to discuss this plan will be June 7, 5:30p.m.

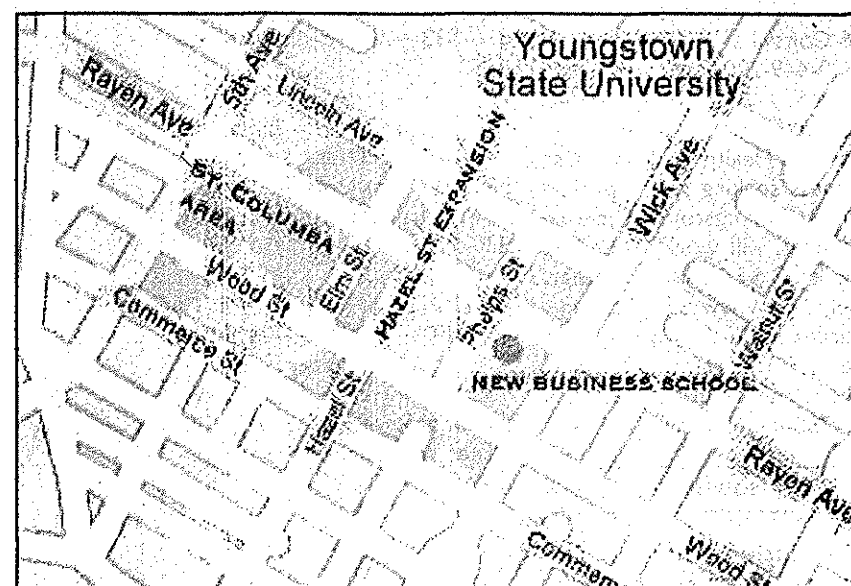
In order to go forward with the redevelopment YSU needs to acquire property. The university is seeking to re-zone the area as "institutional." Youngstown 2010, an approved area revitalization plan, includes several steps to close the gap between YSU and downtown, including re-zoning.

The call for re-zoning has under-tones of eminent

domain, which has many local citizens up in arms.

Colleen Divito, owner of University Pizza on Lincoln, said by re-zoning the area, the property value will plummet, enabling YSU to buy anyone's institutionally-zoned property for pennies on the dollar. "They can do what they need to do without controlling everything," Divito said.

If the plan is approved YSU will hire a design architect, the proposed completion date is fall semester, 2008.



Jambar/ Emery Boyle-Scott

NEWS IN BRIEF

### Largest class in 20 years for YSU

Youngstown State University graduated its largest class in 20 years during the 2005-06 academic year.

According to the university, 2,132 students earned diplomas and since the 2000-01 school year the rate has increased 17 percent.

University officials credit the large numbers to an increase in enrollment between 200 and 2004.

### Summer fest looking for entertainment

The Summer Festival of the Arts is seeking bands and musicians to fill open performance times during the annual event on Youngstown State University campus July 8 and 9.

Seven available 45-minute performance slots need filled. Performers must select music that is appropriate for the festival with families and children nearby, but does not need to be geared toward that audience.

Applications can be found at www.ysu.edu/sfa. For more information contact Lori Factor at 330-941-2307

THE JAMBAR

Weather

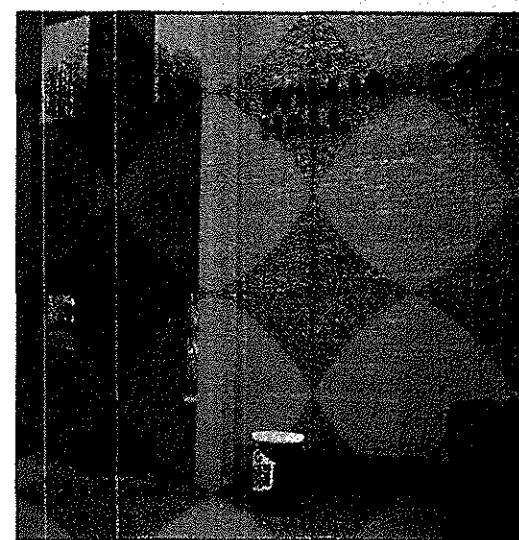
Today >> rain

82 | 63

friday: rain 72 / 58

saturday: cloudy 83 / 68

Online: thejambar.com



Jambar/ Emery Boyle-Scott

TOP: Williamson Hall the current College of Business

ABOVE: Sign posted by the Grenga family protesting the proposal.

## ENGINEERING

# Engineering students advance to national bridge building competition

By: Adrienne Sabo  
COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University civil engineering students will compete in the National Student Steel Bridge Competition May 26 and 27.

This is the third time a team from YSU advanced to the national competition.

YSU's team placed second at the regional competition, right behind Ohio State University.

Kevin Lynch, one of the captains for the team said, "The goal is always to win and this year we put a lot of time and effort into [winning], but we are happy just to make it."

Faculty advisor for the team, Scott Martin said that one of the benefits of a competition like this is that it helps reinforce what the

students learn in the classroom and creates a sense of comrade for the team.

Martin said, "They have to deal with getting a project done on time and it teaches them project and time management."

The team, made up of members from the student organization, American Society of Civil Engineers, started preparing in September for the competition held in the spring Lynch said.

Lynch said, "Once the rules came out we began to design the bridge and by late October we started measuring and cutting the steel."

The team must design a bridge out of steel that can hold 2,500 pounds. The bridge is fabricated into pieces that the team brings to the competition and puts it together in the

fastest amount of time possible. According to Martin, it took this year's team a little over 10 minutes to put their bridge together at the regional competition.

The YSU team will compete against over 40 other teams at the national competition in Salt Lake City.

Martin said, "At nationals, the team will be competing with big name schools and they've learned that they can hold their own against them."

The teams are judged on how quickly they put together their bridge, the weight of the bridge and its deflection.

Members of this year's team are Lynch, Steven Cox, Adam DePizzo, Tyler Drombsky, Mike Lyda, Ryan Murphy, William Pitoscia and Kevin Shifflet.

## YSU students win Bioethics Network of Ohio awards

By: Adrienne Sabo  
COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University students won awards for their essays at the Bioethics Network of Ohio annual dinner.

Catherine Kasper took second place and a cash prize of \$300 and Lanny Cortez won third place, receiving a prize of \$200 at the May 11 dinner.

Bruce Waller, philosophy professor and instructor of the two students said part of the mission of BENO is to encourage students in this field and get them interested in the network.

Waller credits professors Brendan Minogue and Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez for their help with assisting the students.

"These instructors made great contributions to the students being able to analyze the case study and clearly present a solution," Waller said.

Minogue, professor of philosophy and founding member of BENO said that the organization was founded 30 years ago as a way to assist professionals in the health care field with communication.

Every student participating in the statewide competition received the same case study and had to present a clear solution in 1,000 words or less.

Student essays were judged by their clarity of solution, creativity, how the solution was resolved and the consistency of the resolution with laws and ethical standards.

Waller said that Kasper and Cortez showed an appreciation for the complexities in the case and presented excellent suggestions.

Kasper and Cortez were enrolled in a philosophy course in the spring called Ethics in Medicine and the Health Care Professions with Waller.

## Women engineers often face discrimination

By: Jenny Boyce  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Recent studies have shown women majoring in engineering are still facing many setbacks in their field, including a lack of mentors and gender bias.

The Engineering Workforce Commission reported fewer than 20 percent of undergraduate females are currently enrolled in the engineering field nationwide. According to the Youngstown State Office of Institutional Research, Youngstown State University has an enrollment of 14.3 percent of engineering students are women for the spring 2006 semester. (Does this sound like women overall? Is 20% of all women in college? Or does it sound like 20% of all engineering majors are female?)

A cooperative study done by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education found female instructors to be the most influential mentors to young women in the engineering field.

Diana Fagan, director of YSU's women in Science and Engineering Career Workshop said, "most boys are interested in having a man to go to [for help], but it's much harder to find a female involved in engineering and science to turn to."

The Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network reports the national average of female engineering faculty to be

eight percent. A lack of female professors is a top concern addressed by the Brown University guide, "Achieving Gender Equality in Science Classrooms."

NSF, Borwn and Goodman Research Group studies link a lack of self-confidence coupled with diverse settings to be the primary hardships faced by young women in the engineering field. In a three-year study the Goodman Group also found that two-fifths of female undergraduates considered leaving the engineering field during their college years.

According to the NSF "women who leave engineering [did] not leave because of poor academic performance." All three studies showed women had higher or similar grade point averages and class standings as men.

The Brown University study found 70 to 80 percent of female students felt discouraged and "suffered from a loss of self-esteem."

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology (AP style?) said, "girls are sometimes afraid to show how smart they are."

Being treated differently as the minority in the classroom is just one of the discouragements that Fagan and Carol Lamb, assistant professor of engineering technology, believe women encounter in the engineering field.

"Subtle harassment and discrimination

are still issues," said Lamb. "Some males don't really think girls should be there."

According to the Goodman and Brown studies, more women have found the engineering field to be a cutthroat and cold environment, in which students found the traditional "weeding out" process to be intimidating. The NSF defines "weeding out" as professors trying to create a sense of competitiveness in the classroom to assure only the "academically strongest survive."

Jeanette Gaar, YSU professor of chemical engineering, said the field was intimidating for everyone, and that there was no form of gender bias in the classroom from her observations.

Crystal Kenmuir, sophomore chemical engineering student at YSU, said that she is not going to drop out because she is female. During classes and workshops she recalls that she was "treated like an engineer." Kenmuir has not encountered sexism or discrimination at YSU.

While gender discrimination is still a concern, undergraduates questioned in the Goodman research reported an overall need for more female mentors and workshops to help those females interested in engineering.

David Targan, author of Brown's "Gender Equality," said, good support systems for women can increase the percentage of women graduating with degrees in the sciences to higher than the national average.

### Classified

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## First tournament birth for YSU



Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

By: Emery Boyle-Scott  
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time in Penguin history, the women's softball team won a spot in the regional NCAA championship, held at Michigan State University.

Friday the Penguins played the Michigan Wolverines at Alumni Field. The Wolverines won 4-0; pitcher Jennie Ritter threw her fifth career no-hitter.

YSU pitcher, junior Karlie Burnell, allowed only four hits and four runs during the game.

Saturday YSU played the Kent State Golden Flashes for their last game in the NCAA championship. Defeated 8-0, the game ended after only five innings.

YSU's head softball coach, Christy Cameron said that YSU had a "great year this year," and it's too soon to start thinking about next year.

The Penguins finished the season with 22-27 record.

## Female vets travel tough road back to life

By: Deborah Horan  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Keri Christensen spots an empty pop can on the side of the road in McHenry County, and in a flash she is back at the helm of a heavy-equipment transporter maneuvering along Iraq's treacherous highways.

Her two children are strapped into seats in her mini-van, but Christensen finds herself scrutinizing roadside trash for signs of a makeshift bomb.

"Everything is weird," said Christensen, 33, a Wisconsin National

Guard soldier who returned in November to the Chicago area after serving 10 months in Iraq. "I went from a stay-at-home mom to a soldier instantly."

Traveling that path in reverse has been equally tough for Christensen and a rising tide of other female veterans. Since 2003, the number of former soldiers seeking help for combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder has grown so much that the

North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center has shifted its women's mental health program to respond to combat stress disorders.

"Women are often trying to reintegrate into a family with young children," Dong said. "They're expected to go back to being with the kids."

### A correction to April 11th's issue concerning Jim Petro and higher education at YSU.

"Senior Greg Diamantis said Petro answered his question in detail about the use of capital resources for his community college plan. Yet Petro's information on higher education was lacking. "He was running around about the plan," Diamantis said, "he gave points A and F but didn't give points B, C, D, and E. [Petro] didn't give the details about how we were supposed to get there."

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### OUR SIDE

## Grads upset with McCain's speech

Senator John McCain, a likely candidate for the 2008 presidential election, faced what had to be one of his toughest crowds on Friday.

McCain endured heckling, protests and even students walking out on him during his keynote speech at the commencement ceremony for graduates at the New School in Manhattan. What more could be expected from a school noted for its liberal stance?

Bob Kerrey, president of the university, invited McCain to speak and stood by his choice, but to invite someone to speak at a commencement ceremony when their publicly advertised ideals don't match with the general audience in attendance, hardly seems like it would make for a pleasant ceremony.

Before McCain even spoke, the crowd showed him that he was unwelcome with signs reading, "our commencement is not your platform," "McCain does not speak for me," and other similar ones.

Jean Sara Rohe, a student speaker at the ceremony decided the night before to forego her original speech and use her time to speak out against McCain and his presence.

She researched his commencement speech and used McCain's own words against him. Rohe's remarks referred to a speech he previously gave at both Liberty University and Columbia University. In her speech Rohe criticized the university for inviting McCain to speak and said that the invite was "a top-down decision that did not take into account the desires and interests of the student body on an occasion that is supposed to honor us all."

After Rohe's remarks, McCain still gave his usual address although much of its effect was lost on the crowd who, by most reports, turned their back to him and some walked out.

The backlash and protest from the audience, should have been expected and avoided on the university's part. The university should have taken into consideration what they were getting themselves into when they invited McCain, a republican senator, to speak at a liberal school.

At a commencement ceremony, students want advice and wisdom that usually comes from the keynote speaker, not a protest and someone pushing their political agenda.

Although Rohe apologized a few days later for the way the events unfolded, she stood by her remarks. Rohe's apology came after McCain's camp called her an "idiot."

The real fault lies in the university. The university should have known beforehand that something like this would happen. Commencement ceremonies are usually a time where students reflect on the years they spent in college and look toward the future. Instead the students at the liberal New School endured a speech from a republican presidential hopeful.

Schools should take better time and care in choosing a keynote speaker for the next commencement ceremony, and even follow Youngstown State University's ideas to use one of its own people, or at least one that lines up with its political leaning.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



Cartoon courtesy of KRT Campus

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Casino gambling,' a better plan

Editor:

Casino! The word conjures up visions of bright lights, ringing bells, scantily clad women, and people laughing. Some folks think of it as the ultimate in entertainment. And this vision is quickly becoming a reality in all corners of the world. It's not just Monaco and Las Vegas anymore, it's all of Europe, all of South America, most of Canada, and many states right here in the United States. As a matter of fact, this phenomenon is sweeping the world. And now, it's all the buzz in Ohio.

Moral issues aside, I'm quite certain Casino Gambling is coming to town. It's only a matter of time and in what form. I think if you took a poll you would discover that most people believe this to be true, and want it to happen. Why people have become so fascinated with gambling is not readily apparent. Maybe it's a buildup of jealousy from years of reading about and visiting the glitter towns. But, the fact is that it's embedded in practically all forms of social behavior. For example: our investment markets have basically become casinos, our social habits have become very risk oriented, and the most profitable movies contain high elements of risk. People love it.

But, with gambling comes a darker side of life. Most people lose and some become addicted. I recently read where school children, in London, are spending their school lunch money

on Internet Poker. Crime rates go up, and social deprivation creeps in. I think it's safe to say that every community that has experimented with gambling has faced these challenges. But, I doubt any of them would turn back the clock.

So, if you believe, as I do, that there is no way to stop gambling from becoming a reality in Ohio, then I suggest, as Ohioans, we attempt to be smarter than other communities. Let's try to do it right. Let's get past the acceptance phase and embrace the planning phase. Let's put together a long-range plan that can actually benefit our communities and our society as a whole. Compare it to building a house: anyone can throw together something simple that will keep the rain off and keep him or her warm in the winter. But, it takes planning to build something to be proud of for many, many years.

So, if that makes sense, let's first look at what we don't want: 1) we don't want outsiders operating our casinos, that should be first priority. The people's money has to stop flowing away from our communities. 2) and we don't want cities running our casinos. Most cities, of any size, have financial and social problems that may never be fixed. Throwing more money at those situations is just not acceptable.

Therefore, I suggest we create a new set of laws, in Ohio, a brand new strategy that creates Casino Gambling and directs the authority to each individual

county. In other words, each county that wanted to participate, would own the license and the operating corporation. I would suggest that in many situations several counties band together, in districts, to share the responsibility based on population. This would allow for larger, more economically viable projects. State-of-the-art projects to be proud of.

The gaming system that we would create would be a "quasi-pari-mutuel" system, meaning that the participants would receive most of the wagering back in winnings. The house (counties) would only drag a) enough for operating expenses, b) a small percentage to help the county maintain law and order, and c) a small percentage which would be designated exclusively for improvements within the counties. And, of course, they would receive the profits from concessions. A small gaming commission would need to be established to oversee these establishments. It would not be turned over to the lottery commission, which has been a complete social failure and should be disbanded, in my opinion. Very soon, it would become apparent that the people of Ohio had just created a mechanism to replace the unconstitutional funding of the school system.

I envision three ways that the counties could operate these casinos:

1) The county can own the real estate, the corporation, the license, and the operating com-

pany.  
2) The county can own the real estate, the corporation, the license, and hire a professional operating company.

3) A real estate speculator can own the real estate, the county can own the corporation and the license, and the county can hire a professional operating company.

Any of these are fine, as long as it is understood that all dealings must be arms length transactions and books get audited on a regular basis.

In closing, I have just laid out a preliminary plan, which responsibly addresses a trend in our society. If anyone agrees that tackling this challenge by thinking 'outside the box' is proper, then I would suggest that we set out to solicit the help of every state politician, and fall hopeful, to help us in our quest. Legislation needs to be created and acted on, with vigor. The effort should be to accommodate gambling without federal interference. It's going to take a large effort, and somebody is going to have to take the lead. But I believe the long-term affects will go down in history books.

I fear that if Ohioans simply sit back and 'roll with the punches', as every other community has done, we will end up with a handful of Indian run bingo halls, that bring us no 'good' and a lot of 'bad'.

Ned Bushong

## Math professors salaries are sickening

Editor:

I am completely annoyed about the failed recent negotiations and their impact on several faculty in the mathematics department, which I chair. But let me first identify myself, I am John Buoni, Ph.D. and current acting chairperson of the Mathematics Department through Dec 31, 2006. This is my third stint as chairperson, two of which has been in the acting capacity, and has totaled over eight years of experience as chair. I retired December 31, 2005, but was asked to takeover the chairperson position on March 1, 2006. I was a faculty member in the fall, 2005 and along with many colleagues,

picketed on Fifth Avenue daily during the recent strike.

With that background, let's consider what is being negotiated through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The current collective bargaining contract states that summer courses must have a minimum of 15 students, 10 for a graduate course, to run as a regular course. If a course does not run as a regular course then it may be offered as a conference course. The current contract gives a maximum of two work hours (WH) for a conference course, regardless of the actual credit hours (CH) the course carries. The administration position would have rectified this issue by creating a work

load hour formula of the form  $(n/15) \times CH$  where  $n$  is the number of students in the class. This has been turned down by the bargaining team.

Now as stated, this letter to the editor is being written to point out how the union's position is costing several faculty in my department several thousand dollars. To illustrate this point, let's assume all faculty discussed earn \$65,000. The compensation for each hour taught (WH) is 3.75 percent of their salary. If faculty A is to teach a five hour course with an enrollment of 12 students and if there is no MOU; the current contract language would pay him  $\$65,000 \times .0375 \times 2 = \$4,875$  vs. the MOU would yield twice

that or \$9,750. The point is that this faculty member would lose nearly \$5,000. That is sickening.

Now there are more issues than the simple numbers that I provided. LOOK AT THE MONEY LOST! This is terrible. Personally, I see the administration proposal as a "Win-Win" situation and would like to wonder aloud why in the world was it turned down. Certainly, an explanation is due to the faculty who will suffer financially as a result of this action on their behalf!

John J. Buoni  
Mathematics Department



CULTURE

## Hunting the fabled 'Mall Rat'

By: Jeremy Lydic  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

In and of itself, the shopping mall is a veritable jungle of modern commerce, literally thriving on a predator/prey culture. Defining fashion, trend and coolness, the phenomena of sub-societies developed within the mall's walls grew around the simple notion that one place in a community can serve as a hub for absolutely anything.

This plastic retail ecosystem has given birth to a number of mall species. Shoppers and merchants each serve an important role in keeping the mall "alive." And, like any ecosystem, the mall has its scavengers; the ones that feed off scraps and contribute nothing more than their presence to the mall's great circle of life. The name Mall Rat suits them well.

Mall Rats are generally around the high school age (14 to 18-years-old), but it is not the age that defines a Mall Rat, rather the habits. Lack of excitement in local communities drives these penniless creatures to the mall to attain some measure of purpose. Seeking fun, acceptance and ultimately "something to do," the Mall Rat knows that the mall can offer a percentage of these things without the threat of loitering.

Chris Pipoly, an 18-year-old senior at Boardman High School, is a standard issue Mall Rat, adopting the culture in ninth grade.

"It's just somewhere to go to waste time," Pipoly said. "I don't spend a lot of time there because it's easy to get bored."

Typical to beasts in the wild, Mall Rats always travel in packs. Occasionally communicating with other packs of Mall Rats, they tend to stick with their own and rarely intermingle. Each pack has its own trademark traditions that it uses to pass time. In this case, Pipoly and his mates entertain themselves with a game

they play, affectionately called "The Disney Game."

To compete in the game, the player must walk into the Disney Store and reach the back wall while completely avoiding the clientele. Watching the game in action resembles a deformed, yet highly amusing, game of Pac-Man.

"It's pretty much impossible,"

says one of Pipoly's comrades known only as Malibu. The 20-year-old Mall Rat is initially striking in appearance, wearing ultra baggy clothes and decorative metal sheaths over his teeth, more commonly referred to as his "grill."

Malibu's brother, 19-year-old Jason Brozman, a graduate of South Range High School, and Pipoly's twin brother Bobby, completes the foursome.

As in any ecosystem, creatures have natural rivals with which they compete. In the instance of the Mall Rat, the Mall Guard has posed many challenges. Ironically, a Mall Rat accepts the challenge with enthusiasm.

Brozman said, "You go there to get kicked out." He then regales a situation a few years ago when a friend of theirs got stuck in one of the operated kiddie rides. A Mall Guard had to come help him out, and then escorted them out of the mall.

Pipoly said, "I got escorted out once for making loud, obnoxious noises. They made sure I got in my car and left." Mall Rats seem to enjoy the attention

tact with a female. Of course, it is rarely a serious attempt, as the two species do not usually interact socially, although their coexistence is peaceful.

"I think it's funny, but I feel bad they have to lug stuff around," Malibu said.

A primary instinct in any Mall Rat is to feed. Sustenance is a requirement on any excursion into the mall, but the lack of a part-time job makes acquiring food a difficult challenge. Thus, the Mall Rat is forced to hunt to abate hunger. Keeping with their natural instinct to scavenge, the Mall Rat tends to hunt only in friendly areas where food will come easily. This always requires a symbiotic relationship with a member of another mall species: the Merchant.

When a Mall Rat recognizes a Merchant that is friendly to them outside of the mall ecosystem, acquiring free meals is usually a simple matter.

The process is a delicate one but, if care is taken, any Mall Rat can eat a full meal for free.

The relationship between the Mall Rat and the food Merchant is a volatile one, and rarely serves the Merchant in a positive way. The group once had a food contact at Auntie Anne's, but was terminated for dishing out free food.

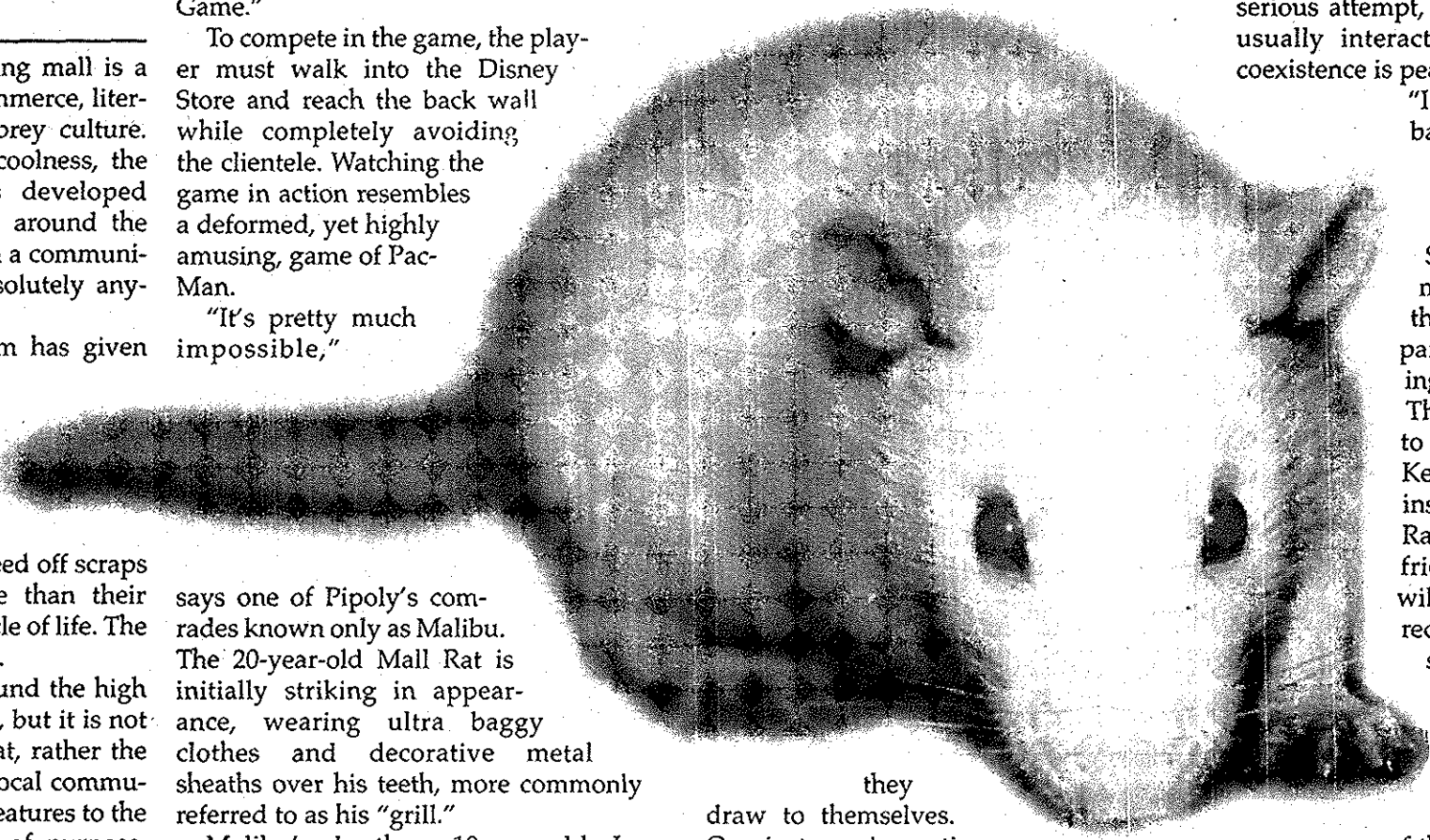
"We usually go to Food Court and sometimes Jillian's depending on how late it is," Pipoly said. "You have to go to who you know for free food. I have contacts at Gloria Jean's Coffee and Orange Julius for free drinks, and Asian 'Chao' for free meals. Samples from Sarku Japan are also crucial."

"Anything I want, they just load it up. Grab a drink at Gloria Jean's and you're set."

Taking it easy seems to serve the Mall Rat best. It is hard to find a species that truly lives outside the Capitalist society on which the mall has thrived for years, but the Mall Rat represents a freedom that can only be observed, never learned, and always appreciated.

"I got escorted out once for making loud, obnoxious noises. They made sure I got in my car and left."

Jason Brozman



## Mall jobs, hit or miss

By: Emery Boyle-Scott  
NEWS EDITOR

More than a month after applying for positions at retail stores in Southern Park Mall, none of the six Jambar reporters who investigated jobs had received an offer, or an interview.

Managers at Hollister and the Limited said they had not yet gone through the applications to begin the hiring process.

The reporters applied to:  
-Children's Place, an upscale baby and children's clothing store.

-Hot Topic, a punk, goth music and clothes store.

-Abercrombie & Fitch, the popular clothing store across from their competitor:

-American Eagle, a young adult "hip" clothing store.

-Hollister, a "vintage California" clothes store.

-Charolette Russe, a classy women's clothing shop.

The six Jambar reporters turned in their applications April 14 to each of the seven stores. The six reporters are:

Megan Anderson, 26, white female

Emery Boyle-Scott, 19, white female

Christina Byce, 21, white female

Kelli Cole, 23, black female

-Jeremy Lydic, 26, male Caucasian

-Laura Neely, 26, black female

The reactions each of the reporters faced varied but most of them were generally positive, even though the reporters differed by age, sex, race and size.

Christina Byce, participating reporter, said she was treated very well at Hollister. "I was almost hired on the spot. The girl said I should get an interview and that they hire every one they interview."

On the other hand, Kelli Cole, another participating reporter, said some stores were stunned when she asked for an application. She said at Abercrombie and Fitch she got the feeling she was unwanted there because she is black.

Sue Boyle, parent of one of the participating reporters, 53 white female walked into Abercrombie & Fitch seeking an application. She asked a clerk if she

could complete the in-store computer-based application. The clerk dropped the shirt he was folding and pointed to the manager. He told Boyle to ask the manager, whom he did not name or identify. Boyle asked the clerk to introduce her, so he walked over to the manager and started to talk to him. After a few minutes Boyle left without filling out an application. "They were just rude," Boyle said.

Cole also had a discouraging experience at Abercrombie & Fitch. While she was standing at the computer terminal in the store, filling out an application for employment, three Abercrombie employees were standing nearby loudly using descriptive language to talk about sexually transmitted diseases. "It was strange and unprofessional," Cole said.

The reporters went to Snelling staffing services, on Market Street, to talk about malls, mall hiring and mall employment. Snelling is an employment agency that helps bring people seeking employment to businesses seeking employees.

Debi Janis, staffing spe-

### Snelling's Tips

Turn off, or silence your cell phone during the interview.

Speak clearly, don't use slang.

Wear clean, neat professional clothes to the interview and to work.

Don't wear a hat or a "do-rag."

Wear a smile.

Don't take children to the interview.

Have reliable transportation, even if its not a car.

Don't ask about benefits, salary or time off during the first interview.

Make eye contact.

Laura Neely, Jambar Contributor



Photo courtesy KRT Campus

cialist of Snelling said that the mall environment is less than hospitable, "its like it was in high school. Its how it makes you feel."

More than a month after their applications were submitted the six Jambar reporters' experiences could

be symptomatic of a slow hiring process or it could also reflect "clique" hiring.

Christina Buccafurni, business development manager at Snelling career services said, "cliques come out of high school right into retail." The retail employee

is the face of the business, they make or break the environment, she said. Getting the application and filling it out honestly is only the first step but the interview is the most important part of the hiring process, Buccafurni said.