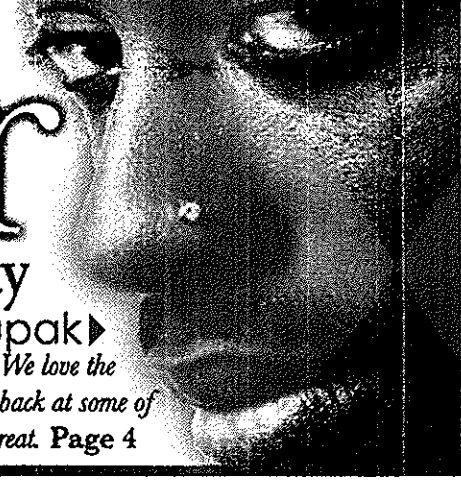


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◀ Grab life by the balls
It's no Oscar candidate, but "Dodgeball"
will keep you laughing. Page 4

◀ Oasis takes on Tupak
VH1 hasn't cornered the market. We love the
90's too, and we're taking a look back at some of
the albums that made the era so great. Page 4

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Thursday

JUNE 24, 2004

Weather > Partly Cloudy



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in the red

NEWS IN BRIEF

YSU to sponsor CityScapes photo contest

Youngstown State University is looking for entrants in their first CityScapes photo competition.

The theme for this year's contest is "Neighborhoods: Where Our People Live," a reflection of the people of Mahoning Valley.

Professional and amateur photographers are invited to participate in this contest, which will be held annually. Artists are limited to three entries. The cost per entry for professionals is \$15, \$10 for non-professionals and \$5 for high school students.

Prizes are \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 for professionals, \$500, \$250 and \$100 for non-professionals and \$250, \$100 and \$50 for high school students.

University of Akron art professor Andrew Borowicz will be judging the entries. The photographs accepted will be displayed in the Rose Marie Smith Gallery on the second floor of Tod Hall from Aug. 25, 2004 to Sept. 1, 2005.

Entries are due by 5 p.m. July 16 and photographers will be notified of results during the week of Aug. 2. For more information or for entry forms, contact Jean Engle, YSU Office of Marketing and Communications, at (330) 941-3291.

Finnerty and 2010 team receive awards

YSU's Public Service Institute recently presented their Public Service Awards.

In a ceremony Tuesday morning, Thomas A. Finnerty Jr., associate director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and the Youngstown 2010 Planning Team received honors for their public service.

The awards are given annually to those in the community and university who serve the public and make an impact in the community.

The 2010 team, under the leadership of the city's chief planner Anthony Kobak, has been working to create a vision for the Youngstown area. Finnerty has been working with the 2010 team, and has also been a leader at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies for more than a decade.

the jambar poll question

Do you notice racial separations at YSU?

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Unanimous vote

Professional Conduct Subcommittee says charges against Human Ecology Professor are justified

MICHAEL J. BALALE | The Jambar

After a three-month investigation, a professional conduct subcommittee unanimously voted Wednesday that the charge of professional misconduct against a human ecology professor is justified and the full committee now has 21 days to pursue or reject findings.

Human Ecology Professor William Bruce Neil has been the center of controversy since March when The Jambar reported that he received his master's and doctoral degrees from an unaccredited institution in Louisiana.

Neil is teaching summer school, but a university spokesman said he does not yet have a contract for fall. Neil's summer school classes end Aug. 6.

Neil has repeatedly told reporters that he did not misrepresent himself and he said he is confident he'll be cleared of all charges once the committee reviews material.

Local reporters gathered outside of a Bliss Hall conference room Wednesday waiting for news of how the committee had voted.

After several minutes, Rick Walker, chair of the subcommittee, invited reporters into the conference room. He said the five members of his committee were responsible for hearing testimony from Neil, faculty members on campus and the search committee that hired Neil.

The committee's decision was to be made Monday. However, Walker asked for and was granted a time extension due to the amount of material his committee had to review.

Walker refused to answer any questions from reporters and made only a brief comment about the work of his committee.

"We really aren't going to comment right now on anything involving the case," Walker said.

The committee compiled a booklet of information that measured about one and a half inches about Neil. Walker said the booklet would be given to the full committee and contains proof that Neil misrepresented his academic credentials.

Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Walt Ulbricht attended the press conference and accepted several questions.

"The next step is for the committee of 15 members to review the findings," Ulbricht said.

Associate Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts Joe Edwards is chairing the Professional Conduct Committee that is now reviewing the material from the subcommittee.

The committee will forward its decision to Jean Hassel, chair of the Human Ecology Department. Hassel then has to decide whether to forward the committee's recommendation to university officials.

After the full committee issues a decision, Ulbricht said Neil may file an appeal with YSU President David Sweet.

Neil came to YSU in September 2003 and was hired as an associate professor earning \$60,000 per year. In addition, Neil is also being paid \$20,250 for teaching two summer school courses.

He was also given additional money to cover classes left vacant after another Human Ecology professor was put on leave. Ulbricht said he did not know how much extra money Neil received when he picked up classes formerly being taught by Robert Campbell, a human ecology professor who was put on paid administrative leave after he was accused of sexually harassing a student.

Neil contributed what he said was evidence against Campbell by filing a statement with the university office that investigated the allegations. Campbell has denied any improper conduct and, through his lawyer, alleged that Neil is waging a personal vendetta against him.

When interviewing for the job with YSU, Neil told university officials that he had earned his master's and doctoral degrees after taking six months of classes from the former LaSalle University - which was only accredited by an agency that LaSalle created.

Neil's doctoral dissertation, titled "Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management," is 24 pages long.

MICHAEL J. BALALE | 330-941-1989

NCAA rules; Irizarry team transfer illegal

MICHAEL J. BALALE | The Jambar

Former Youngstown area high school football star and Ohio State University tight end Luis Irizarry was suspended from the Buckeyes after being arrested for the second time since October, and at least one Youngstown State University football coach said he would not be surprised if Penguin players were trying to recruit him to play for YSU.

Earlier this month, Irizarry was arrested for violating probation after he and teammate Ira Guilford were apprehended after an OSU student called university police and said two men jumped him and stole his wallet.

At the time of the arrest, Irizarry was already on probation for assault and disorderly conduct after a fight in October in an OSU dorm room.

Although very few people close to the YSU football team are talking, one YSU football coach said if Irizarry chose to leave Ohio State, he'd "accept him with open arms."

YSU tight ends coach Brian White said he and other coaches have not talked to Irizarry because it would violate NCAA rules but said YSU would be a perfect fit for any nationally ranked player to get a second chance if they had trouble at their original school.

White added that if Irizarry was in the Youngstown area, YSU players might try talking him in to transferring.

"When it comes to recruiting, our players are the best recruiters we have," White said. "I wouldn't doubt that they are telling him to come here. It wouldn't surprise me at all."

In a press conference following Irizarry's most recent arrest, Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel told reporters it would be unlikely for either Irizarry or Guilford to play for the Buckeyes in 2004.

According to NCAA rules, if Irizarry chose to leave Ohio State University, he could transfer to another school. However, an NCAA official said it would cost the player one year of athletic eligibility if the previous institution suspended the player.

Assistant Director of the NCAA Rich McGlynn said he has seen and heard of several players transferring from one institution to another but said if a player were ineligible for disciplinary reasons, playing a sport for the new school would violate NCAA rules.

"A student athlete can't just transfer away from their problems," McGlynn said. "If they say he's ineligible at Ohio State, they are going to say he's not eligible at your school either."

McGlynn said even if a player appealed a suspension, their chances of being re-instated would be very unlikely.

"My gut reaction is that you don't have much of any chance at all," McGlynn said. "What are you going to say, 'hey, I got arrested at another school, so can I come play here?'"

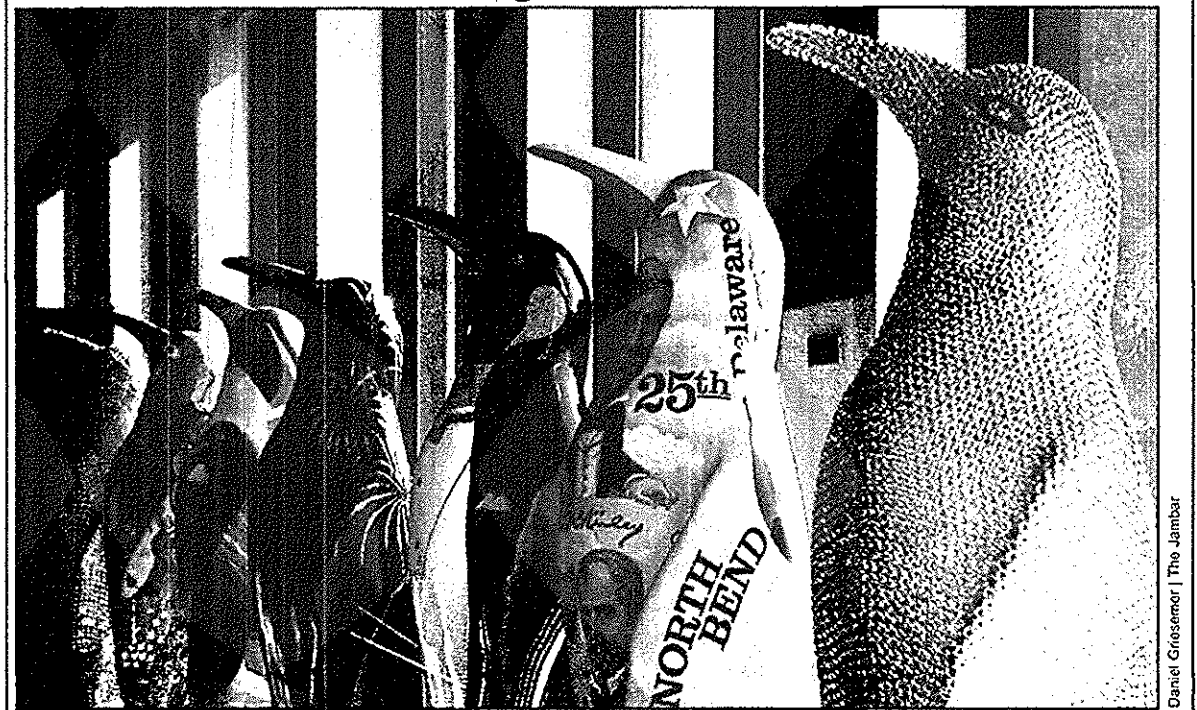
YSU Executive Director of Athletics Ron Strollo said little about the possibility of Irizarry donning a Penguin uniform but did say he has seen great players attend top-ranked schools, just to end their playing days where they started.

"I think it could be possible because sometimes these kids go away and then look to move back a little closer to home," Strollo said.

Strollo said if any player wanted to transfer to YSU to play football, several factors would come into play to ensure they were a good fit for the program.

see NCAA, page 2

Standing at attention



▲ These penguin sculptures wait in Todd Hall for their official unveiling as part of the Penguin Parade public arts project. The sculptures are decorated by local artists and will be displayed around the region.

Students notice segregation on campus

SHANNON DILLINGHAM | The Jambar

At noon, Kilcawley Center is flooded with students. Crowding the International Student Lounge are African-American students. At Arby's, white students mingle at almost every table. Moving farther into the center, The Marketplace reveals segregated tables of solely black or solely white students.

The scene is the same day in and day out and confirms something that students and faculty alike at Youngstown State University agree upon: segregation exists on YSU's campus.

Some students say that they notice a distinct separation of races and ethnic groups on campus, and are asking why this is so. Further, they want to know what will be done about it.

Senior Melissa Carlson said she always notices a separation of ethnicities while eating at Arby's. Usually, Carlson said, she notices groups of Hispanics at certain tables and then other tables with only white students. She said that she herself is unopposed to sitting with stu-

dents of ethnicities other than hers, as long as she knows those students.

"I think people don't go outside their comfort zone so that's where the problem begins," Carlson said.

Others see the role of student organizations as key to further integrating the campus and providing a greater understanding of the importance of diversity on a campus such as that of YSU.

One of them, senior Carla Farley, said she sees the organizations as playing an important role in making every student feel like part of a family. She thinks that officials continue to work hard to create and enhance diversity on campus through different programs.

Claudia Wheland, one of the owners of Winslow's Cafe, agrees with Farley. Wheland, said she sees student organizations as being a key part to making the university more diverse and less segregated. With a smile spreading over her face, Wheland also spoke of the importance of student jobs and students of different ethnicities working together.

"Our business has a pretty diverse collection of people," Wheland said.

Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives Leon Stennis said he is aware of some segregated areas on campus, but he said he could not judge the extent of the problem.

Stennis said that as part of promoting greater diversity on campus, he holds workshops and different events to create awareness. He works with faculty, staff, students and student organizations.

Stennis, who has been on campus since 1966 and is a 12-year employee of YSU, said he sees a lot of racial intermingling as far as dating goes. However, he is aware that there are some "isolated pockets" of segregation by choice.

Graduate student Khaly Dang agreed that there are areas of segregation by the choice of the students. She added that it could be due to insecurities and a greater familiarity with students who share racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Dang cited her own interest in sticking more to other students of Asian descent because she sometimes felt uncomfortable in conversations with other students who were not.

"Sometimes I felt like I was frustrating the American students during con-

versations because of my accent," Dang said. "I felt more comfortable around other Asian students."

Senior Esther DeLeon tended to agree with Dang that it is more an issue of familiarity. DeLeon said she does not see the segregation that others do.

"I think students here stick to who they know, but they don't choose to know only those of the same race, at least from what I have encountered," DeLeon said.

Stennis said this is mostly because YSU is largely a commuter school. Citing that many students attended high school together, they feel more comfortable sticking with each other as they have something in common.

Stennis said he sees good prospects for diversity in the university. But in the short term, he said the university still has some quirks that need to be improved.

"A lot of people are hung up on the definition of diversity and as long as people think of diversity as race, there will be problems," Stennis said. "It relates to gender, age, religion, majors and anything that has to do with difference."

SHANNON DILLINGHAM | 330-941-1913

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NEWS IN BRIEF

►Kopelos recipient of "FIRST" scholarship

Justin Kopelos, a senior at Warren G. Harding High School, received the first YSU/Delphi FIRST scholarship.

The award is a joint scholarship between Youngstown State University Foundation and Delphi Packard Electric. It is given to a member of the Delphi E.L.L.T.E. Robotics Team which brings together corporate sponsors, technical scholars and interested students for learning and competition.

►Greg Gulas named chair of 2004 Heart Association committee

Assistant Director of Student Activities at Youngstown State University Greg Gulas has been named as a committee chair for the 2004 American Heart Association Heart Walk.

Gulas will serve as the previous teams committee chairman for the event that will be held Sept. 18 at the YSU track.

For more information, contact the American Heart Association at (330) 965-9230 or e-mail: lynn.whetson@heart.org

Got a tip?
Call the News Editor at 330-941-1989



► Construction crews work to catch up to their project deadline after persistent rains impeded progress in building the new Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The Wellness Center is a part of YSU's West Campus Gateway project and is expected to open in August of 2005.

NCAA FROM PAGE 1

"We would call his parents, former coaches and teachers to make sure he was the type of person we wanted at YSU," Strollo said. "We'd tell him about the program and talk to him to see if he's the type of kid we want here."

YSU head football coach Jon Heacock refused to comment on Irizarry's future and on the number of remaining YSU football scholarships.

Louis Irizarry was contacted but did not comment to questions by a Jambar reporter.

MICHAEL J. BALALE | 330-941-1989

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EDITORIAL OPINION

-an editorial-

'Due process' is vital to more than Neil case

Over a fourth of a year has passed since the professional conduct subcommittee first began their investigation into the credentials of Human Ecology Professor William Bruce Neil. Now, after being granted a time extension, the commission collectively decided that the charge of professional misconduct against Neil was fully warranted. The Professional Conduct Committee, chaired by Joe Edwards, has 21 days to either accept or reject the subcommittee's findings.

At first glance, this process may appear to be an unnecessarily lengthy and complex way to deal with what appears to be such a simple case. The facts speak for themselves; Neil received in the brief period of six months two post-graduate degrees that take most years to obtain. The "capstone" of his doctoral degree is a skimpy 24-page dissertation discussing a hodgepodge of service industry management positions.

It might also anger some that Neil is still in the classroom during this investigation, despite seemingly overwhelming evidence to the illegitimacy of his degrees.

Why is a professor with flimsy credentials being paid with tuition dollars to instruct students at YSU while multiple committees trudge through a lengthy investigation process?

There is a bigger picture to be seen here.

While it may be frustrating to sit and wait for what could be seen as an almost certain outcome, we must not only be patient with this process, but also supportive of it.

The foundational principle of "due process" that is guiding this investigation is one that we have decided as a society is important. We have embedded it into our laws, into the lessons we teach our children and yes, into our professional conduct committees.

In reality, this investigation is not just about William Bruce Neil, bogus credentials and the now defunct LaSalle University. It never has been. The systems we have established are not just meant to punish individuals who break the rules; they are put in place to protect those who follow the rules but are still accused of wrongdoing.

This region, more than any other in Ohio, appreciates the value of unions. It was the unions that fought for processes and committees such as these to ensure that workers were given a fair shot at defending themselves against illegitimate penalties and firings. Yes, these structures may slow the overall process down; but do we really want to work in environments where these safeguards do not exist?

It is easy to arbitrarily toss around words like "bureaucracy" and "red tape" during proceedings like these. When flagrant violations occur, we want retribution. We want accountability and want them "now."

But "now" is the time to be patient. Now is the time to sit quietly and wait for the Professional Conduct Committee to do its work. We have to trust that they will be seeking justice for YSU students and faculty with all due speed.

We also have to trust that they are not blind.

If William Bruce Neil is guilty of misconduct, which it appears he is, the committee will recognize that and will take the appropriate actions. William Bruce Neil will be removed from his classrooms, and the Human Ecology Department will seek out new, qualified faculty to replace him.

Until then, we must look beyond the scope of William Bruce Neil and see the bigger picture; a system that is meant to protect the wrongly accused who have shown respect for the rules we have established.

Expansion of graduate programs crucial to future growth of YSU

Over the last few years, the focus of Youngstown State University officials has been on growth, revitalization and expansion.

University President David Sweet has voiced his hopes over and over again to make YSU a fierce competitor in the college market and keep steady the continued increase in enrollment.

In order to accomplish this goal of making the university most attractive to prospective students, Sweet and others have been laying plans for revitalizing the campus and surrounding areas. Cleanup has begun in the outlying areas of campus. Countless billboards touting the successes of former and current students pepper the greater Northeastern Ohio area.

All of these efforts have come in attempt for a promising idea: establishing YSU's prominence and necessity. In order for the university to accomplish these goals, YSU needs to back up its motives by improving the quality and quantity of its academic programs.

Last Friday's Board of Trustees meeting took a step in that direction when the board approved four new master's degree programs to be added to YSU's school of graduate studies.

The master's degrees are for American studies, financial economics, computing and information systems and a fine arts degree that will be a joint project of YSU, the University of Akron, Kent State University and Cleveland State University.

Currently, YSU offers only 30 graduate degree programs and eight graduate certificate programs. This pales in comparison to the 54 graduate degrees offered at Kent State and the over 100 graduate degrees offered at the University of Akron. Both Kent and Akron serve as competition when it comes to recruiting students.

Undoubtedly, YSU and the Board of Trustees have taken a step in the right direction. The new degrees should serve to enhance not only the education of current YSU students, but also of prospective students.

This step should not be seen as an endpoint, but rather as a stepping off place for the university to continue to build on the programs offered. Increasing and improving academic programs are the best ways that Sweet and university officials can work towards improving their goals of both improving diversity and continuing to increase enrollment.

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

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 and grammar. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambor 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 do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambor staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



Teach locally, learn globally

ANNE KIM | KRT Campus

On a recent morning, I walked into a first-grade classroom and was shocked. Not by all the colorful Latin American flags or the kids restlessly shifting in their seats. I was stunned hearing these kids shout responses to the weather lesson — in Spanish.

Everything in the classroom, from the posters on the walls to the teacher's writing on the board, was in Spanish. Yet, I wasn't far from home.

I was visiting John Stanford International School in Seattle, where educators teach foreign language through immersion and focus on global learning.

This public school's first- and second-graders speak Spanish half the school day; English the other half. The school also teaches Japanese. As I sat listening to them answer their teacher in Spanish, I wondered why I was so surprised. The simple answer is that these schools are not common institutions. But should I have been shocked by such integrated international education? Absolutely not.

As participants in the larger global world, public schools have a responsibility to teach students to be global citizens. Without an international perspective, students will be ill-prepared to work and relate in the real world. We need more internationalized education.

Indeed, it has become trite to say that we live in a globalized, interconnected world. But it's true: Students leave academic institutions as members of a global society, and we must be prepared.

U.S. export of goods and services has increased by roughly 63 percent from 1993 to 2003, and the import of goods and services has jumped by about 47 percent during this time, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In Washington state, more than 10 percent of residents are foreign-born, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

It has never been more clear that foreign policy and international relations have real impacts on the daily lives of local communities as well as those abroad.

"Students leave academic institutions as members of a global society, and we must be prepared."

That said, global citizenship and local citizenship are not mutually exclusive. To be responsible community citizens, we must act as responsible global citizens.

Imbued in this system, students need to recognize both the benefits and inequalities associated with globalization.

To act as responsible global citizens, we need to see how our actions affect not just ourselves, our communities or even our nation, but also people around the world. We need to know, for example, how the new shirt we bought at the mall affects maquiladora workers in Mexico.

An emphasis on global learning should start in the classroom with foreign language, geography, history and various cultural classes. Through immersion in different global frameworks, students learn to be more culturally aware and open-minded.

The lack of global education in this country is evident all around us. Some of my friends, though well-versed in other fields, don't know what an NGO (non-governmental organization) is or what WHO stands for (World Health Organization). Unaware of such basic structures of world affairs, they clearly don't see themselves as members of the global community.

This is an embarrassing trend around the country. For example, only 17 percent of young Americans can find Afghanistan on a map, according to a survey by Roper and National Geographic.

Many other countries prepare their students for the global world much better than the U.S. Germany, for example, requires students to learn a second foreign language by seventh grade. And Japanese students are tested on a foreign language as part of their high-school entrance exams.

We need to learn from an early age to see ourselves in a global context. We can't critically question the world around us without basic cultural and global knowledge.

More public schools need to follow Stanford International's lead and commit to teaching students how to become responsible global citizens for students' benefit and for America's growth and stability.

Atkins diet goes way too far

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambor

At any given moment it is bound to happen, and it is beginning to take over my life.

Flipping through the television channels, walking through the grocery store aisles, picking up a magazine, checking my e-mail — it is all becoming more and more aggravating.

It is this simple: I cannot take one more mention of the "low-carb lifestyle" or the Atkins diet.

I cannot, I will not. I eat a slice of bread, cereal, crackers, waffles, anything with carbohydrates whenever I see one of those commercials. Call it juvenile, call it an irrational solution to a silly problem, call it an excuse to eat carbohydrates for a personal cause. However, I see it as my own little protest to a big and potentially dangerous problem.

The high public demand for Atkins is turning industry upside down. Manufacturers are rushing to meet the consumer demands for "Atkins-approved" and "low-carb friendly" foods. It is taking over the economy and taking over America. However, this current dieting quick fix has potentially dangerous side effects that some people seem to be ignoring.

Just in case anyone has not picked

up a book or newspaper, turned on their television or walked through the grocery store in about a year or two, here's a little explanation of the Atkins diet and the low-carb lifestyle.

The Atkins diet Web site explains that it is a four-phase lifestyle of eating that restricts intake of sugars, wheat and corn derivatives, caffeine and other carbohydrate filled foods. Those on the diet consume greater amounts of protein and fat in order to burn fat at a higher rate.

Diet proponents say the lifestyle has multiple positive effects that create more healthy lifestyles. Lowered insulin levels, lowered cholesterol, energy boosts and mental clarity are just a few benefits some experts say can come from the diet.

Despite the positive effects, doctors are still warning that, despite the short-term benefits, it can really hurt in the long run. In fact, health experts and officials warn that the intake of fatty foods and heavy levels of protein can lead to heart disease. In an interview with ABC, Dr. Keith Thomas Ayoob of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York pointed to years of research proving that the high levels of fat can only hurt your heart. Further, it can cause kidney stress and possible liver damage.

Yes, it is a booming business. The reported 32 million Americans on the

diet are keeping manufacturers in production. NBC's Today Show reported Wednesday that there are currently over 3,000 low-carb or Atkins brand products on the market. These include brands of ice cream (which, coincidentally, is a market that is down four percent since 2003, reported the Today Show), waffles, breads, pastas and even a new low-carb Krispy Kreme donut. It looks as if the craze may be here for a while, it still does not mean that America is becoming a healthier nation. More research needs to be done to evenly weigh the benefits of this super-diet against the dangers.

Still, health officials maintain that, until further research is done, the safest way to maintain a healthy weight is through balanced diets of carbohydrates and protein. As Samantha Heller of the New York University Medical Center says, "A calorie is a calorie is a calorie."

Regardless, I wish the low-carb craze would lose its fervor already. To each his own, as far as dieting is concerned. However, the obsession with cutting out carbohydrates and the little red "A" that is featured on so many food products is really starting to get under my skin.

Just leave my bagels and me alone.

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

West Europe vs. "West Side"

Do Oasis' ballads rival the poetry of Shakur?

DANIEL GRIESEMER & MARK STEVENS | The Jambor

Oasis: (What's the Story) Morning Glory?

Dan's view—

Oasis: you either love their classic style or you despise their British guts. Personally, I've always been a fan. Granted, Liam isn't a polished vocalist that can hit notes only dogs can hear, and Noel's lyrics don't rack the brain. But maybe it's their rawness that draws people to their music. There's something familiar about their tunes that wins you over. It's classics like "Champagne Supernova" that you'll hear being belted out by bar patrons, and "Wonderwall" that young guitarists pluck out on their acoustics.

Morning Glory is squeaky clean from start to finish and demonstrated the diverse sounds the Gallagher brothers were capable of. Whether they ever reached their full potential is another question altogether. Admittedly, "Morning Glory" is the only album Oasis ever produced that I can listen to without skipping a few tracks. Noel wrote as many duds as he did gems. This album was luckily almost completely composed of gems. Notice I said "almost."

The album does have a few rough spots. "Roll With It" was the first single Oasis chose to release from the project, but it is possibly the weakest track on the album. The two un-named tracks (six and eleven), snippets from their "Swamp Song" sessions, are ineffective interludes to "Some Might Say" and "Champagne Supernova" respectively. It's their brevity that keeps them from being skipped over.

Still, the album represents the pinnacle of Oasis' career and contains some of the most memorable "feel good" songs from the Brit-rock revival of the 90's. Though it was their catchy rock tunes that climbed the UK pop charts, it is the ballads of Oasis that have stood the test of time. "Wonderwall," "Cast No Shadow," "Champagne Supernova," and my personal favorite, "Don't Look Back in Anger," are instant relaxation in sonic form. They're catchy, soothing and are the embodiment of what a rock ballad should be.

Mark's stance—

Holy bad lyrics! "Champagne Supernova" is almost eight minutes long. That's the first reaction you have to have when you put this CD in the computer. Second reaction? My God. How did this ever reach anything approaching critical acclaim and/or commercial success?

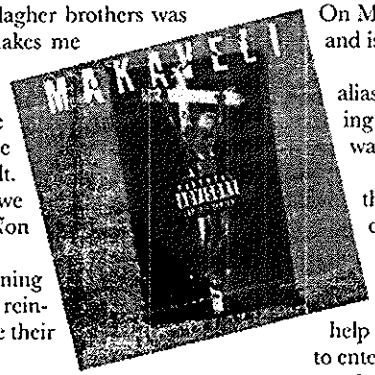
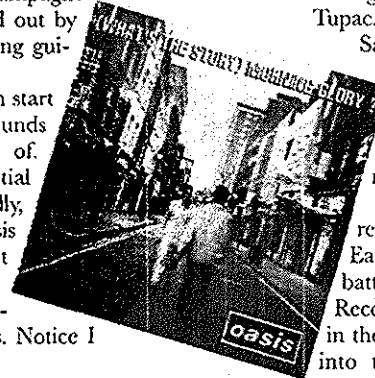
OK, I take away the commercial success part. This album has the perfect recipe to sell 4 million copies in the United States. Take two parts safe songwriting, add four parts cheesy British attitude, mix it all together with Beatles envy and sell it off as "music."

I don't remember which of the Gallagher brothers was the drunk, but listening to this music makes me want to join him at the pub and throw down a few pints. Don't get me wrong, the songs they released for the radio are catchy and yeah, I even know some of the words. But take that with a grain of salt. "Tubthumping" was catchy at first and we all know the words to an infamous Four Non Blondes track.

Thankfully, this album was the beginning of the end for Oasis. Or was it? Was Oasis reincarnated as Train? Or did they just change their name and read some books?

Either way, I can't get past the non-risk taking, soft Euro Rock crap that pervades from this album. There is such an unfounded self-assuredness to this album that makes you shake your head.

I liked Oasis the first time they came around when they sang "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" or was it "Hey Jude?" I don't like the remixes. Sgt. Pepper would dishonorably discharge this band, no doubt. And that's coming from the most anti-Beatles source possible. This album couldn't move me if you threw it at me.



2 Pac: The 7 Day Theory

Mark's analysis—

The fact that both Eminem and Jay-Z remade a song from this album ought to tell you the power of and respect for this album fans and artists of rap music alike have. Of course, there will always be the people who just don't get rap music and therefore could never get Tupac.

Saying that any one track is the hands-down best on this album is an insult — an insult to one's self. It's kind of like saying that "The Second Coming" is Yeats' best poem without being able to understand the rest of them. It shows ignorance.

This album is, as Tupac himself put it, "the realest s--- [he] ever wrote." The beefs with the East Coast rap scene are real. Tupac's verbal battles with Mobb Deep, Jay-Z, Bad Boy Records and Nas were the realest parts of rap in the 90's — a time period when rap moved into the mainstream and started to fade towards the radio-friendly, three-chorus-and-a-catchy-hook crap that exists now. After all, rap music is bred of a competitive nature. One-upping is the best way to maintain interest.

Some might complain that the album is a little violent. After all, the original "Me & My Girlfriend" — from where Jay-Z got the inspiration for his "Bonic and Clyde" love song — is about Tupac's love affair with guns. But right before you question Tupac's use of violent imagery, ask yourself where Tupac is now. Oh wait. That's right. He was gunned down in cold blood.

Bottom line: "Hail Mary," "Blasphemy," "Krazy," "Me & My Girlfriend," "White Man's World" and "To Live and Die in L.A." are classic tracks. There are no filler songs that you have to skip over because they get on your nerves. That's half of the tracks being top-notch and the rest being quality. You can't ask for more than that.

Dan's assessment—

There's no doubt that Tupac Shakur is one of the most talented rap artists of all time; I'd be ignorant to even question that. In the relatively short five-year span that comprised the bulk of his career, Shakur was able to accomplish what most artists are unable to achieve in a lifetime. The double-platinum "Me Against the World" was only a prelude to the success he would find in "All Eyez On Me." That album was certified 9-times platinum back in '98, and is still a must have for the newest generation of rap fans.

This being said, "The 7 Day Theory," released under the alias of "Makaveli," was in my eyes one of the most disappointing albums Tupac ever produced. "It's a classic," you say? "He was at the top of his game," you say? I say you're crazy.

I'm not sure if it was the countless hours he spent reading the works of Machiavelli or the prison food, but incarceration detrimentally altered Tupac's style. Gone were the poetic lyrics that distinguished his earlier works. Unimaginative sextates and unenthusiastic sentiment accompany pointless rants on violence and rivalries. At times, the listener can't help but question whether Shakur's main goal of the album was to entertain or to piss off every rapper on the east coast (and a good number on the west as well).

The album does have two redeeming highlights that save it from obscurity. The first is the project's 9th track, "White Man's World." Completely amazing. Powerful. Stunning. Hands down the best track on the album.

The second redeeming quality is its overall production quality. Though the album seems rushed in some parts, especially in the filler track, "Just Like Daddy," it has the cohesive feeling that "All Eyez On Me" lacked. It's the excessive bitterness in the end that keeps it from ranking among the decade's best ear candy in the rap genre.

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DodgeBall

has serious bounce

Stiller's new film is completely illogical, predictable, perverse—and totally worth the \$7.50

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambor

Can you ever really forget your first game of dodge ball?

If you're lucky, it was exhilarating. A chance to prove pure playground dominance and knock down any, and I mean any, little guy that stood in that path.

Or, it was the quickest way to guarantee being the last picked for any team thereafter.

For Ben Stiller, it's next in his line of quirky box office hits. "Dodge Ball: A True Underdog Story" takes the game to a brutally funny high and wraps the game's highs and lows into a 97-minute satirical slapstick comedy. True, the plot is predictable and anyone can figure out the ending before the first bite of popcorn, but the one-liners and off-the-wall humor make the movie work in traditional formula.

A "Zoolander"-esque opening introduces White Goodman (Stiller), a previously overweight guy who battles his insecurities with unorthodox fitness training and his multimillion-dollar enterprise Globo Gym.

Across the street is the less-than-stellar Average Joe's gym; a run down facility run by Peter LaFleur (Vince Vaughn) who rarely collects payment from his limited pool of eccentric patrons.

LaFleur soon finds out from his bank's lawyer Kate Veatch (Stiller's wife, Christine Taylor) that he owes \$50,000 in 30 days or the gym will be shut down, with Goodman waiting in the wings to turn it into parking. Faster than you can say "Ben Stiller over acts," LaFleur and the rest of the Average Joes start cooking up schemes to make the money. Lucky them, a national dodge ball tournament just happens to be scheduled in Las Vegas within the next month. The grand prize? Yep, a cool 50 grand.

So, under the tutelage of a very grizzled, very wheelchair-bound and former dodge ball all star Patches O'Houlihan (Rip Torn), the team makes their way to Vegas to fend for the prize against, none other than, Globo Gym.

Of course it's predictable, especially if you have ever seen "Zoolander" or "Old School" or even "Happy Gilmore," but the stupid jokes and equally absurd characters make it worth the \$7.50.

Stiller, of course, goes to the edge and at times, over the top with Goodman's character. His finely feathered crop and spandex outfits simply scream that Stiller is in character. I do have to say, though, I thought I would be against Stiller as "the bad guy," but he's so bumbling and ridiculous that it somehow works.

Vaughn and Taylor are there to balance Stiller's sometimes drastic attempt at hamming up the screen. Vaughn, with his almost constant straight face, keeps an even keel of one liners, while Taylor comes up every so often with a modest peculiarity (i.e. her penchant for unicorns). Torn also steals the spotlight with his aggressive and somewhat militaristic training ("If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball.")

It's silly. It's perverse; it's just damned funny. Not to mention, the cameos, which include the self-mocking appearance of David Hasselhoff, are placed perfectly to surprise the audience.

Bottom line: if you like Ben Stiller and his humor then definitely spend the money for an hour and a half of entertainment.

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Too hot to handle: Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" fires up debate on politics, news media

CHARLES EALY | KRT Campus

The year 2004 may not go down in history as the best for movie artistry, but it will definitely rank as one of the most controversial.

First came this spring's nationwide debate and outpouring of Christian support for Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Now gadfly director Michael Moore, who heated up last year's Oscarcast with an anti-war acceptance speech, has launched yet another firestorm with "Fahrenheit 9/11," an attack on the Bush administration that debuts Friday.

Like it or not, "Fahrenheit" is a landmark production: It's the first wide-release documentary explicitly aimed at stopping the re-election of a U.S. president. And it has elevated the movies in the political discourse of American society.

"First and foremost, I thought about how we can make something so enjoyable and entertaining that people will want to go to the theater," Moore said at last month's Cannes Film Festival, where he won the top prize, the Palme d'Or.

But he followed up with a blunt statement: "George W. Bush has to be removed from office."

When asked whether any movie could affect a U.S. election, the filmmaker said test screenings in the Midwest showed "Fahrenheit" having a profound effect on undecided voters. "People came up to me after the screenings and said that the movie had changed their minds about the election," he said.

Moore's motivations in making "Fahrenheit 9/11" go back to his childhood in Michigan, where he saw how the media in different nations portray world affairs differently. "I grew up near the Canadian border and watched the Canadian reports about the Vietnam War, and it wasn't what Americans saw... So when these people applaud here in Cannes, they already know a lot of what I'm saying. But the American audience, when they see this film, they've been kept in the dark. They're not showing these things on TV in America."

Moore's comments raise questions about how the media frame the news — but pose problems for his documentary as well.

During "The Passion's" heyday, many Christians complained that the media focused on charges of

anti-Semitism and extreme violence, not on the spiritual reawakening that the movie was sparking. In short, they thought the media framed the story in a negative, rather than positive, way.

But Gibson used the controversy to get weeks of publicity for his movie, just as Moore has been able to keep "Fahrenheit" in the news almost daily since May, when his battle with Disney over distribution hit front pages.

As with "The Passion," both foes and friends of "Fahrenheit 9/11" will grumble about media bias when the movie hits theaters Friday.

Positive reviews risk being seen as endorsements of Moore's contention that the president has put U.S. soldiers "in harm's way for no good reason, other than to line the pockets of his friends and benefactors."

And negative reviews may be interpreted as supporting the president and his stated goal to bring democracy to Iraq.

The debate over "Fahrenheit 9/11" shows how U.S. culture focuses almost exclusively on the black and white: You're either for or against something, but never uncertain.

The media are part of the problem, cultural experts say, in spotlighting controversy and conflict, not complexity, and often failing to provide context and detailed explanations for world events. The theory: Uncertainty and ambiguity don't sell newspapers, don't attract large numbers of TV viewers and, most of all, don't sell movies.

"It's very easy to cast the world in black-and-white terms, in terms of liberal and conservative. And it's very hard to stay in the middle," says Douglas Raybeck, an anthropology professor at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. "The tendency of the West — and especially in America — is to dichotomize. We seek to eliminate ambiguity. And those in the middle are often characterized by both camps as wimps and wussies."

Adds Tejaswini Ganti, who teaches anthropology of mass media at Connecticut College: "It is easier to write about things in cut-and-dried fashion. It's easier to make films that way. And it's easier for politicians to portray things that way. It's a general commentary on life in the U.S., on how complex issues are described in a black-and-white manner."

Moore vigorously defends the accuracy of "Fahrenheit 9/11."

A team of fact checkers has verified all of its assertions, he says, and he's set up a "war room" to rebut the expected factual challenges.

But the most significant objections may come not from a debate over the facts but from those who say world events aren't as simple as Moore presents them.

The film includes no hint that the U.S. military presence in Iraq has been helpful in any way. In interviews, he has repeatedly challenged U.S. attempts at nation building, saying: "Freedom doesn't come from the barrel of a gun. It just doesn't work."

On screen, he shows bodies of Iraqi children allegedly killed in U.S. attacks, as well as wailing women who pray for deliverance from the Americans. He also takes his cameras to U.S. military hospitals, where wounded soldiers express disillusionment with the war. And he follows the journey of Lila Lipscomb, a Michigan woman whose son was killed in Iraq and who transforms from a war supporter to a protester.

Such images make a powerful argument against U.S. involvement in Iraq, and Moore says these perspectives have been kept from the American people. But "Fahrenheit 9/11" runs into problems because of the same biases it seeks to excoriate: It fails to acknowledge the complexity of conflicting opinions.

The same can be said for his contention that the Bush family's Saudi connections helped several dozen Saudis, including relatives of Osama bin Laden, leave the United States shortly after the attacks without being questioned.

An independent panel investigating Sept. 11 recently concluded that the evacuation was properly handled. And it noted that many in the bin Laden family had split with Osama during the 1990s.

Such distinctions muddle the narrative impact of a documentary, and Moore conveniently avoids them.

Whatever the public response to "Fahrenheit 9/11," Ganti says she finds the hubbub surrounding its release fascinating.

"What's interesting about Michael Moore is his personality, that he's able to attract this kind of attention," she says. "Other people are

saying the same kind of thing. But he does it with humor."

As the filmmaker has said, "If more people on the left would rediscover their sense of humor, they would be more successful."

His success with previous documentaries such as the Oscar-winning "Bowling for Columbine" and "Roger & Me" has also made him a star of the documentary world, Ganti says.

His persona also offers him a credibility that a woman or person of color might not have when making the same arguments, she says. "He's a Midwestern white man saying these things, and that adds to his legitimacy. He's not an Eastern liberal egghead elite. He's a meat-and-potatoes guy."

Moore embraces that persona. At Cannes, he said, he often stirs resentment from government and media elite because "I'm an overweight white guy in a baseball cap who doesn't even have college education and is uncovering things that they aren't."

