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Academic Senate considers policy changes

Committee seeks to improve retention rate

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

Youngstown State University officials say they are looking to add extra requirements to the current open admissions policy.

Currently, members of the Academic Senate committee are researching for a proposal to create a policy that will add a cut off point for high school grade point averages and ACT scores in university admissions requirements. University officials say the policy could help retention rates and improve some students' education.

Tod Porter, a member of YSU's Academic Senate, said the goal of the policy would be to enroll these students into lower level, remedial courses before they begin their major curriculum. Porter's committee is researching to identify at-risk

students by comparing individual YSU GPAs with high school GPAs and ACT scores.

Porter said other schools, such as the University of Akron and Kent State University, have similar policies. The cutoff points at the other universities, Porter said, are around a 2.3 high school GPA and score of 16 on the ACT.

Porter said policies such as these could provide incoming at-risk students with a more well-rounded academic structure. He added that students with weaker academic backgrounds have an above average failure rate in their classes at YSU.

"The policy would create a situation where those students would be more successful in classes and finish their degrees," Porter said.

see Senate, page 4

Ceremony honors fallen YSU soldiers

MAYSOON ABDELASUL | The Jambar

A quiet calm pervaded the small group gathered near the 9/11 memorial.

As the individuals solemnly stood waiting for the speaker to begin, a piercing wind provoked a shiver from most of the crowd.

The cold air enveloped them and another shiver rippled through the crowd as Mike Shepherd began reading aloud the names of Youngstown State University alumni and servicemen who had died.

Shepherd, a former United States Marine and coordinator of ticket sales at YSU, joined others as part of Wednesday's ceremony honoring Veterans' Day. The ceremony took place at YSU's 9/11 Memorial in the campus core.

Shepherd led the ceremony with an emotional speech.



Chuck Rogers | The Jambar

Mike Shepherd read the names of deceased YSU alumni who served in the armed forces at Wednesday's memorial ceremony.

He said Veterans' Day is a memorable day that should be honored by all Americans.

"As citizens of the United States we could show no greater disrespect than to not

see Veterans, page 4



Brian Hanson | The Jambar

▲ Sparks fly as work continues on the tower roof of the Anderson Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The tower will eventually house an enclosed climbing wall. The facility is scheduled to open Aug. 15, 2005.

Recreation center nears one-third completion

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambar

Despite a rainy spring and early summer, construction of the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center is on schedule and within budget, Youngstown State University's director of planning and construction recently reported.

Dennis Clouse, director of planning and construction, said the \$12.1 million recre-

ation center is about one-third complete, with 350 tons of structural steel, 75 tons of rebar steel, 101,250 cubic feet of concrete, 1.4 million units of face brick, 100,000 units of concrete block and 1,000 cubic feet of cast stone used as of Nov. 1.

The building should be enclosed by the end of November so interior work

can continue in a timely fashion throughout the cold weather months, Clouse said.

"The general contractor, Hively Construction, has done a tremendous job at getting the project out of the ground," Clouse said.

On average, about 50 workers are on site daily. Once interior work begins, there

see Recreation, page 4

Recycling good for economy, ecology

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

Youngstown State University and Mahoning Valley leaders teamed up Friday to honor America Recycles Day in Kilcawley Center.

The day was sponsored by YSU - Youngstown Environmental Studies Society and the Student Government Association and was aimed at keeping recycling on the minds of students and residents.

Junior Stephanie Studzinski, president of YSU-YESS, said the organization's goal was to keep up the momentum of the program and to continue to promote student awareness.

Studzinski said students' knowledge of and involvement in recycling could affect their future environment.

"It's their future," Studzinski said. "If they don't do this, they'll drown in trash."

All were welcome to view displays from groups such as the Green Team on the first floor of Kilcawley Center and listen to speakers at a noon press conference.

The President's Suite in Kilcawley Center was packed as spectators listened to speakers and watched an award ceremony for area schools recognized for their recycling efforts.

State Senator Marc Dann (D-32) addressed the crowd and commended both the Valley's and YSU-YESS's efforts.

Dann said the quantity of waste in Ohio communities is a "tragedy" and said there is

see Recycle, page 4

University prepares for International Education Week

MAYSOON ABDELASUL | The Jambar

It is time to get out of the bubble and into the real world — a place full of many different people.

Various nationalities, ethnicities and cultures exist in the United States and at Youngstown State University. All this week, the Center for International Studies and Programs will be sponsoring events to celebrate these differences.

International Education Week is a celebration of international education and exchange throughout the world. It is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of

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the redlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ **Graduate workshop**
An event designed to provide information for undergraduate minority students who plan to attend graduate school will be on Nov. 20 in the Ohio room. The Pre-Graduate Study Workshop beginning at 8:30 a.m. includes an orientation to the School of Graduate Studies and Research, a panel

discussion and a question and answer session. For more information, contact Leon Stennis at 330-941-2718.

▶ **Globalization lecture**
Today at 7:30 p.m. Thomas Greven, political science professor at the Free University of Berlin will give a lecture on "Clash of Globalizations." Greven is an acknowledged expert on international economics and politics. The event is co-sponsored by the YSU Center for Working-

Class studies, the YSU political science department, YSU Williamson College of Business Administration and the Sigma Pi Alpha Student Chapter of SHRM. For more information, call John Russo or Sherry Linkon at 330-941-2976.

▶ **Scholarships Awarded**
Three area high school graduates were recently awarded Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarships. Recipients are children of police officers in

the tri-county area. Sarah Hillard and Roxanne Alexander, both graduates of Austintown Fitch High School, and Kenneth Oyler, a Hubbard High School graduate, received the award. The scholarship is in memory of Hartzell, a Youngstown City Police officer who was shot and killed. The fund for the Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarships is held by YSU foundation and contains \$78,000.

Weather >> Partly cloudy

55 | 42

the jambarpoll
question
Do you support
open admissions
at YSU?
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YSU leads state in enrollment growth

GRAIG GRAZIOSI/The Jambar

Staff, professors and faculty converged with chicken, chocolate cake and lighthearted jokes to attend the seventh annual Research Recognition Luncheon in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room.

The luncheon, held Wednesday afternoon, honored both faculty and staff for their efforts in achieving grants and sponsored programs, as well as their contribution to the growth of research and scholarship at Youngstown State University.

At the end of the luncheon, the honored professors all posed — plaques in hand — for pictures, joking with one another.

Each agreed that the university's support and encouragement was great motivation, but Chester Cooper, assistant professor of biology, said he believes there was one ultimate factor in the professors' success.

"Coffee — it's the lynch pin of everything!"

Peter Kasvinsky, dean of graduate studies and research, hosted the event, presenting two department-specific awards and a third special award for the most successful intra-departmental collaboration in obtaining external funding.

This year's grant and research funding reached an all time high; \$6.5 million dol-

lars in external funding will be granted to various YSU programs. Over the past four years, the grants received by the university have grown more than 67 percent from \$3.7 million in 2001.

Kasvinsky attributes the significant increase to "a larger size of grants, which we're receiving and a heightened sense of cross department cooperation."

Kasvinsky said he also believes the new graduate research programs, which send graduate students on research projects with their professors, as well as the PACER (Presidential Academic Centers for Excellence in Research) program, which requires undergraduate and graduate researchers, are very influential in the past decade's research growth.

After a short speech by YSU President David Sweet, Kasvinsky presented Sherry Linkon and John Russo, co-directors of the Center for Working Class Studies, with an award for demonstrating superior success in obtaining external funding for their work with the center.

Together, the professors obtained over \$350,000 worth of research grants. They have received support from not only other YSU departments, but also from other college campuses. Linkon and Russo both credited YSU students, who are

mostly of working class backgrounds, with their drive to obtain the grants.

The biological sciences department also received an award for the department's collective efforts to obtain external funds. The department collectively obtained over a quarter of a million dollars for research during the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Cooper and Gary Walker, associate professor of biology, along with Thomas Kim, associate professor of chemistry, won a special award for the most successful intra-department collaboration for getting external funding.

The team was credited with a National Science Foundation grant for more than \$7,000 per year for the next three years. The three professors all agreed that inter-department collaborations have skyrocketed over the past four years, and are a major reason why the number of research grants has increased so dramatically.

GRAIG GRAZIOSI | 330-941-3758

International

FROM PAGE 1

education.

Sonal Patel, the president of the Indian National Student Association, said she is proud to be participating in the week, especially because it is at YSU.

"It just seems that YSU does not have a lot of diversity events," she said.

On Monday, YSU international and study abroad students paraded through Kilcawley Center with international flags and presented them to university President David Sweet with a greeting in their native language.

George Mastrovaselis, a graduate student working in the CISP, is in charge of Wednesday's event, Passport to the World. Mastrovaselis said the event invites fifth grade students to YSU with the goal "to expose them to different ideas and different kinds of people."

Members of international organizations on campus will educate the youth on their own cultures through books, presentations, stories

and traditional dress, Mastrovaselis said.

Patel, who said the Indian population is a significant minority on campus, added that her group plans to give a 25-minute presentation on Indian culture and religion.

Throughout the week, the International Student Association is displaying traditional dress from all over the world in the Watson-Tressel Lounge.

Other events scheduled include an informal discussion Tuesday at noon in the English department conference room about opportunities to teach English as a second language worldwide.

On Wednesday, a series of film clips called "Russia's Window to the West" will play at 2 p.m. in the Language Learning Resource Center in Debartolo Hall. It is a joint effort by Professor of political science Keith Lepak and Professor of foreign languages and literatures Melissa Smith.

The week will end with an International Festival for YSU students to share their

cultures to the entire Youngstown community. Ethnic food prepared by YSU Dining Services in cooperation with YSU students will be available.

Tickets for the festival are \$15 for students, \$20 for non-students and can be purchased throughout the week in the CISP in Kilcawley Center.

Saima Khalid, a member of the diversity council, said the week's events tie in well with the council's "Faces of Diversity" banner campaign.

"I think it gives the multicultural look to the university," she said.

Khalid, a Pakistani Muslim student, said someone came to her in shock to find that Muslims are not just Arab and can come from any country. Khalid said this instance proved that people could be very ignorant of different cultures.

She said she is hoping this week's events will help the students and faculty realize all the differences right in fr

MAYSOON ABDELRAHMAN | 330-941-1913

News in brief

Mathfest

The second annual Mathfest at Youngstown State University will be held on Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Three hundred high school juniors and seniors from six counties are expected to participate in team competitions, workshops about math theory and take an exam to recognize students with superior talent in mathematical problem solving.

Home buying help


A program aimed at helping to increase home ownership into the city, "Buy Into Youngstown" is holding an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Youngstown Steel Museum, 151 W. Wood St. The program is an initiative coordinated by YSU's center for Urban and Regional Studies to help spur ownership in Youngstown.

Medical presentation

Bruce Rothschild, professor of internal medicine at Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine, is giving a presentation at noon on Nov. 17 at Cafaro Suite. The presentation is titled "The Old Grey Mare Ain't What She Used To Be." The lecture is sponsored by Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society.

Computer kickoff

Youngstown State University's Enterprise Resource Planning Solution, known as YES, is hosting a university-wide kickoff celebration for the start of a comprehensive systems project, which will significantly upgrade the university's computing capabilities. The event will be held at 8 a.m. Nov. 19 in the Chestnut Room.



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opinion

EDITORIAL CARTOON

- an editorial -

Now it's our turn

Over the past few years, extra efforts on the behalf of administration, faculty, staff and students alike have been made to improve the integrity, appearance and educational quality of Youngstown State University.

Now, it is time to focus on each individual student's needs.

Currently, YSU officials are researching the plausibility of adding certain requirements to the enrollment process. The potential policy will require incoming students with a high school grade point average or an ACT score that is at or below a certain level to take lower level remedial courses.

This is a policy that should be wholeheartedly supported; it keeps the students' best interest in mind and continues to project YSU's commitment to quality education for all students.

As some university officials have stated, the policy will be tailored to help the student develop academically at his or her own level.

This will improve the quality of education that the university can offer all-around because it will acclimate students to the college classroom environment before they get there. Professors will then be able to teach at a more consistent level without fear that a student may be lagging behind.

Not only will the students benefit, but the university as a whole will too.

Retention rates are already comparable to other state universities. YSU currently has a 71 percent retention rate among students returning from freshman to sophomore year; this is 3 percent higher than the average retention rate for comparative universities.

By instating such an admission requirement, students are more likely to succeed in their earlier classes. This success will propel them further into their college endeavors and cause the university's retention rate to maintain an above average ranking, possibly even causing it to grow.

Another aspect that the university should consider when looking into this policy is that while retention grows, so does the amount of tuition coming into the university.

YSU will have more funding to put into YSU programs, classrooms and the community. The cyclical effect will continue to improve the education process for each and every student.

We applaud those who have are currently researching and working on implementing this policy into the admission requirements. We urge them to continue developing the idea.

Take the opportunity to learn about diversity

In keeping with Youngstown State University's continued commitment to diversity, the Center for International Studies and Programs is sponsoring a number of activities for International Week.

The programs and events scheduled for this week will continue to broaden our students' knowledge of diversity and difference right here in Youngstown.

This educational experience is to be applauded and respected. We also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of those that have created the week's activities.

We urge the students of YSU to participate. It is programs such as this that allow us all to celebrate and embrace our own unique differences.

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



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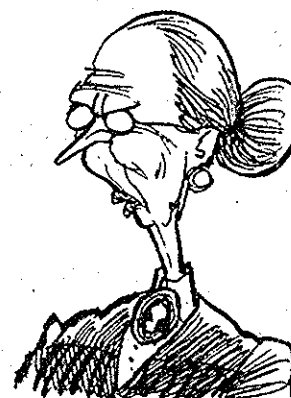
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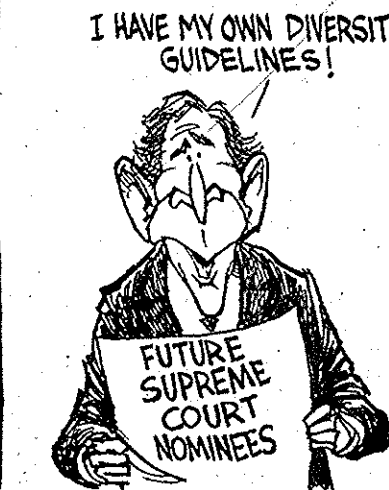
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FUTURE SUPREME COURT NOMINEES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Same-sex benefits easily manipulated

Editor -

I would like to point out some very critical weaknesses in the new-benefits program for same-sex couples at YSU.

What bothers many of us most about this new policy is how easily it can be manipulated.

For example, who decides whether a couple is intimate or not?

What defines an intimate relationship? Sure, you sign an affidavit stating your intimacy with your "partner," but considering the real capital gain one could receive in benefits paid, especially for someone who has expensive ongoing medical treatments, it is not unlikely someone would simply lie to save their own health or the health of someone they care about.

When we telephoned YSU administration to inquire about this huge loophole in the program, Mr. Habat's answer was that most people would not be willing to attach that stigma to their name.

Same-sex intimacy is a stigma? That is an interesting stance for the administration to take. It is especially scary that they base the security of such an expensive program on the average faculty member's aversion to that "stigma."

It is also interesting to note that any increase

in the cost of faculty benefits translates to an increase in university operational costs.

These costs will eventually increase our tuition. (I also find it funny that the individual's who blamed the Bush administration for allowing the cost of college tuition to continue to rise are primarily the same individual's that blindly voted for the same-sex benefits package on campus.)

It also does not seem legal to allow same-sex couples the benefits and at the same time deny opposite-sex couples the same benefits if they meet the same criteria. That fact alone is enough to send it back to the drawing board.

I would also like to express how ungrateful I feel some of this faculty's members and their partners are. To cry about a 10 percent copay, when you apparently paid it all by yourself before this program came along, is disgusting. You should be thankful to have this tremendous help at all. It is more than most of us have, and we (students, taxpayers) pay for yours.

With the inherent discrimination written into the policy of same-sex benefits and the clear opportunity of undetectable fraud to be committed, I implore the university to rethink and redesign this new policy. My college education is nearly too expensive to afford as it is.

-Varg Freeborn

Opinion

Republicans may not get their way in judicial nominations

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's an occasionally annoying fact of political life that even election winners don't get everything they want. That was more or less what Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who is in line to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was acknowledging last week, but it got him in trouble.

Specter infuriated anti-abortion rights advocates when he said it was "unlikely" the president would be able to win confirmation of a Supreme Court nominee who "would change the right of a woman to choose, overturning Roe v. Wade." To assure a floor vote in the Senate, the nominee would need 60 votes - the number needed to end a filibuster. Democrats have been more than willing to exploit that minority prerogative to block nominees they deem too conservative. Republicans are well aware of the situation, which they have justifiably decried.

So why is the right clamoring to deny Specter the chairmanship? Partly because they don't like or trust the Pennsylvania moderate, who favors abortion rights and had to fend off a strong conservative challenger in the Republican primary earlier this year. And partly because they took his words to indicate he would personally oppose such nominees.

But Specter is not the problem when it comes to White House judicial nominees. He noted last week that he "voted for every one of President Bush's nominees in the committee and on the floor, every last one of them." Presumably he would need a very good reason to break with the administration on a Supreme Court appointment. He says, "Although I

am pro-choice, I have supported many pro-life nominees."

Nor would throwing Specter overboard accomplish anything practical. Not being a conservative, he's exactly the kind of senator whom the president will need to help win over enough Democrats to head off a filibuster.

Republicans did increase their majority in the Senate from 51 to 55 in the election, but that doesn't guarantee they can get a floor vote on any judicial nominee. As before, the arithmetic dictates that they will not only have to hold moderate Republicans in line but also persuade a few Democrats to help. Smarting from their defeat last Tuesday, many Democrats are willing to pull out all the stops to prevent a conservative from filling the next Supreme Court vacancy.

The president undoubtedly understands that his best bet is a nominee who, like Justice Clarence Thomas, has not publicly committed himself on the issue. Appointing someone with a clear position on abortion would invite wholesale attacks by one side or the other.

Specter understands the political pitfalls in the process. Rather than punishing him for being honest about them, conservatives would do better to make a vigorous public case for any nominee the president chooses - and for allowing the full Senate to make the decision.

Surely Specter is right in noting that Bush may have to compromise a little on his high court nominees. But Democrats would be wise to remember that compromise is a two-way street.

Have an opinion? We want to hear from you! E-mail us at thejambar@hotmail.com

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POLICE REPORTS

Police were called to the M-9 parking lot Nov. 8 in reference to people attempting to take yellow painted parking lot bumpers. The bumpers were located between M-9 and 216 Adams St. According to a police report, the two males told police they had permission from Youngstown State University to take the parking lot bumpers. After investigating, the police discovered that the men did not have permission.

An illegally parked car was towed on Nov. 9 from the Spring Street Parking Area. The vehicle had seven confirmed unpaid YSU parking tickets and an eighth was issued according to the police report.

A police officer saw the fire alarm lights go off in the Courtyard Apartments on Nov. 12. According to the report, when the officer arrived an evacuation was in progress. The officer spoke with resident Sarah McCoy and she said she blew out a candle that she was burning and threw it in the trash. Fire Department determined the building safe and the building was reoccupied, according to the report.

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editor at:
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Senate

FROM PAGE 1

The policy would be an addition, not a replacement, to YSU's current open admissions policy that accepts all students with a high school degree or equivalent.

Special Assistant to the President Thomas Maraffa said YSU has a responsibility to recognize the readiness of all students because it is an open enrollment school.

"The policy will be designed to increase the chances for students not as well prepared as they should be and allow them to get the support they need," Maraffa said.

Maraffa added the policy would increase student retention, a major part of the administration's heightened focus on admission.

Recycle

FROM PAGE 1

current legislation restricting the amount of construction and demolition garbage allowed into Ohio landfills from other states.

Dann added that recycling and waste management would not only benefit the environment, but also make good business sense.

"We need to recycle not just because it's good ecology, but also because it's good for the economy," Dann said.

Jim Petuch, manager of the YSU recycling program, said although YSU-YESE has won many awards for its efforts, they are not slowing down.

Petuch said the organization is focusing on getting the Youngstown community involved in recycling to boost morale for

Shivani Jindal, Student Government Association vice president for student affairs, said the policy would make progress easier for those students who were not well prepared in high school.

Bob McGovern, SGA vice president for financial affairs, is also a student representative in Porter's committee.

McGovern said the policy directly correlates with the efforts of all higher institutions to retain students and provide them with the resources and support to reach graduation.

McGovern said the only glitch that may come of the committee's research could be attributed to the different grading standards and preparation for the ACT.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-1913

city improvements.

"We don't want to let up," Petuch said. "We want to make a difference and keep spreading the word."

Petuch added that the organization is also working with Kent State University and Cleveland State University to introduce programs such as YSU's Dump and Run to them.

Reading literature from one of the displays, sophomore Laura Aubell reflected on the day's importance.

Aubell said many residents do not realize the need for recycling and added that the event was a step in educating and motivating them.

"Most people don't realize we have such a waste problem," Aubell said.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-1913

Recreation

FROM PAGE 1

will be an average of about 100 workers on site each day. There have been no injuries reported since construction began, Clouse said.

Since early April, both the walkway between Kilcawley and Beegly Centers and the outdoor stairs between Kilcawley Center and the YSU Bookstore have been closed. Clouse said their reopening is still to be determined. It is unlikely they will reopen this winter because of truck traffic at the site.

"It's a tight area to work in to say the very least. I would not expect or anticipate that those walkways will be open until springtime," Clouse said.

The recreation center, scheduled to open by August 2005, will feature a fitness center, a climbing wall, racquetball courts and a jogging

track. It will be the first recreation center at a public university in Ohio built entirely with private funds.

The new facility will help alleviate student congestion inside Beegly Center, the current home for athletics and recreation at YSU.

"There will be less conflict with having recreation, athletic activity — especially practices — and academic classes going on at the same time [in Beegly Center]," Clouse said. "This will draw much of the recreation activities into the new rec center and allow the other programs to go on without as much traffic as there currently is."

Construction has also begun on the \$1.6 million expansion of the YSU bookstore, which should also be finished by the start of fall classes next year, Clouse said.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

Veterans

FROM PAGE 1

As he concluded his speech, Shepherd and other YSU faculty members read the names of each deceased veteran and their affiliation with YSU as the onlookers listened intently. The area was so silent, even someone clearing his or her throat would cause distraction.

The silence was shattered as bullets from the Tri State Detachment Marine Corps. League's 21-gun salute pierced the air. As the men pointed their rifles toward the sky, the vibrant red of their uniforms contrasted sharply with their somber expressions.

As the rifle salute

came to end, the crowd turned toward the YSU ROTC as they marched away with American flags in their hands.

Freshman William Duckworth was one of the people that closely watched the event. He said he attended because it is especially important now to honor students all over the world who are at war.

"Imagine seeing a student one day and the next day he is fighting for our country," he said. "Imagine our friends leaving and not coming back."

Shepard said the university employees that participated in the event were given time off.

"It is an awful weight," he said. "None of us enjoy doing it but we are honored to do it."

MAYSOON ABDELRAHMAN | 330-941-1913

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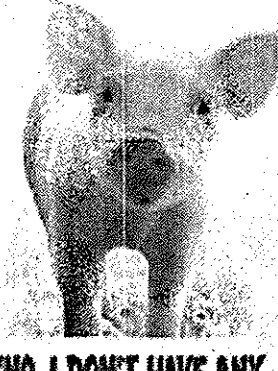


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entertainment

Moonlight and stars come out in Oltmanns' CD

BILL RODGERS | *The Jambar*

Students from the Dana School of Music were at the Steinway piano dedication on Nov. 5, talking excitedly before the festivities kicked off.

"Come on," one student said. "Let's get a seat where we can see her hands while she plays."

These students were excited to see Caroline Oltmanns, associate professor of piano at the Dana School of Music, play a piece by French composer Claude Debussy titled "Fireworks."

Oltmanns smiled politely and bowed as people clapped and cheered before her performance. As she sat down at the keys and began to play, it seemed as if the music was only a tiny piece of the performance.

It's one thing to hear Oltmanns play. It's quite another to see her look of intense concentration as her fingers ricochet off the keys, her hand rapidly stream down a scale, or her arm suddenly shoot out to play a few notes on the opposite end of the keyboard in a fraction of a second.

Oltmanns, who first learned piano in her native country of Germany, earned her doctoral degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She has performed in Germany, France, Switzerland, South Africa and the United States, and has



Photo courtesy of Caroline Oltmanns

also been broadcast on several radio and television stations.

The pianist has a new CD to add to her accomplishments. On this CD, which features the compositions of Beethoven, James Wilding and Chopin, Oltmanns makes it very clear that she knows her way around a set of keys. Complex, streaming melodies with flurrying scales, sudden stops and abrupt mood changes create a very exciting listening experience.

Oltmanns opens the CD with a rendition of Beethoven's famous moody and shifting "Moonlight Sonata." The second composition is "Astroludes" by James Wilding. "Astroludes" has 12 separate parts, each named after a separate star sign on the Astrological calendar. Each part reflects the moods and qualities associated with each of the astrological signs. She finishes her CD with Chopin's "Sonata Number 3 in B-minor, op. 58."

Oltmanns, the artistic director and founder of Piano Week, talked about her CD via e-mail. She explained that she created the CD to be a 'recital CD.'

"It gives the listener a chance to enjoy a piano recital rather than a compilation of works by the same composer," Oltmanns said. "I try to find a repertoire that might have something to offer all types of listeners."

The last track of the CD is a short commentary by Oltmanns on her selections.

"I wanted the pieces to be uplifting and positive," Oltmanns said. "Something all of us search for at one time or another."

Oltmanns also talked about her favorite pieces to play, explaining that she is more comfortable with "classical and early romantic composers like Beethoven and Brahms." However, she added she enjoys contemporary music because she can interpret the work and receive feedback from the composer.

The CD is Oltmanns' third release on the Filia Mundi record label. It can be found in the YSU Bookstore, Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758

No mistake – "The Comedy of Errors" is full of humor

BILL RODGERS | *The Jambar*

When most people think about Shakespeare, they think of someone reciting poetry under a girl's balcony, princes giving long speeches before a battle, or the tragic murder of Julius Cesar at the hands of his senators.

What they don't think of is slapstick humor a-la the Three Stooges, sitcom-like cases of mistaken identity and the occasional lewd joke or two — or several.

Youngstown State University's most recent presentation, "The Comedy of Errors," shows off this other fun and irreverent side of Shakespeare — the side you didn't read about in high school English class.

One of Shakespeare's earlier plays, "The Comedy of Errors" is a lighthearted, nonsensical look at a case of mistaken identity. Two twin brothers, each named Antipholus, and their two twin servants, each named Dromio, were separated from one another early in their lives.

One Antipholus, played by freshman Shaun Brown, and Dromio, played by Anthony sophomore Genovese, grew up in the city of Syracuse. The other Antipholus, played

by senior Alex Stavrou, and Dromio, played by junior Joseph Nahhas, grew up in Ephesus.

The play begins when the Antipholus and Dromio from Syracuse show up in Ephesus. The play's humor begins when everyone — including the wife and the sister-in-law of the Ephesian Antipholus — mistake the Syracusan Antipholus and Dromio for the Ephesian set of twins.

Yeah, it's confusing, isn't it? But, it all begins to make a crazy kind of sense.

Frank Castronovo, the play's director, said the comedy's plot does away with plausibility and that part of the play's appeal is just enjoying the play's craziness.

"[Once] we've dispensed with that horrible, tiresome need to 'make sense,' we can get down to having some real fun," Castronovo said in his director's notes.

"The Comedy of Errors" is fun, something made perfectly clear with the use of ragtime music in between acts and before the insanity begins.

The characters are purposefully over-the-top, something that works out really well.

They imitate one another, trade insults, beat each other with whatever is

handy, race back and forth across the stage and leap out of balcony windows to escape the romantic advances of portly kitchen maids.

If slapstick and silliness isn't your thing, stay away. This show is chock-full of both.

A great example of this silliness was one of Anthony Scarsella's characters. Scarsella, a sophomore, gives a hilarious performance as Dr. Pinch, an exorcist hired by Antipholus' wife to cure her husband of his "insanity." Pinch screams like a Southern minister while bounding across the set, rattling a maraca. The performance says a lot about the play as a whole.

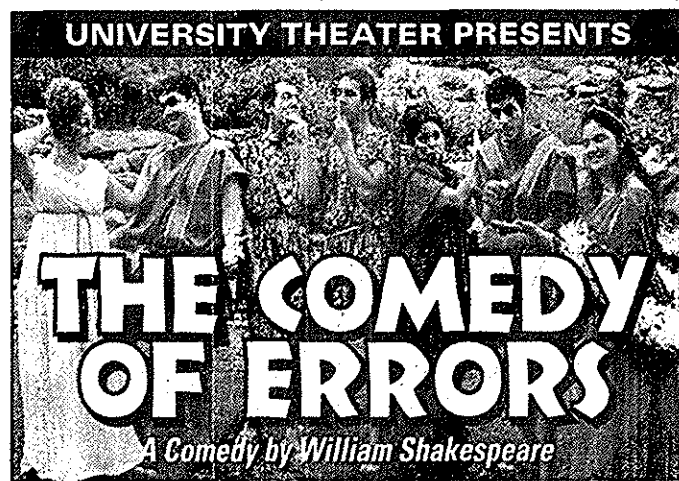
Confusing at times, yet spectacular, "The Comedy of Errors" is a great addition to the theater department's lineup. While earlier shows this season offered audiences a good thinking comedy, "The Comedy of Errors" holds up a more farcical style that theatergoers will enjoy.

The play will be showing the weekend of Nov. 19 through 21 in the Ford Theater of Bliss Hall. For ticket information call the YSU box office at (330) 941-3105.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758

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