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**GOT CLAWS?**  
Le Tigre rips into their new CD.  
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**RECORD BREAKER**  
Danielle Blagg talks about swimming and sisterhood.  
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VOLUME 74, ISSUE 35 • WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM • YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY • >>FREE<<

## YSU partners with Butler County Community College

CHRISTINA POE | *The Jambar*

Just across the state line, Youngstown State University officials solidified two agreements yesterday to create a new partnership with Butler County Community College (BC3).

The Dual Admissions and Articulation agreements were signed at BC3's new LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus in Hermitage, Pa.

Jane Kestner, associate dean of Arts and Sciences, said once a student gets their associate degree from BC3, students would have a smoother transition if they decide to go for their bachelor's degree.

"They'll have the advantage of knowing up front what to take at BC3 should they decide to continue their education here," Kestner said.

Kestner said the agreements could benefit the university by increasing enrollment in upper division courses that would otherwise get canceled due to lack of students.

Kestner said the dual admission agreement would allow students to apply to both colleges at the same time.

Although enrolled in both universities, these students would only pay for BC3 courses until they decide to start taking

classes at YSU, Kestner said.

She added that the advantage of this would be the presence of advisers at YSU who are already familiar with the student when they arrive.

YSU President David Sweet said the agreements are a component of an initiative to bring more students to YSU.

Sweet said the university wants to encourage students from the area community college to enroll and said the partnership will clarify the educational path students will need to follow after transferring to YSU.

Sweet added students from across the Pennsylvania border would not be the only ones benefiting.

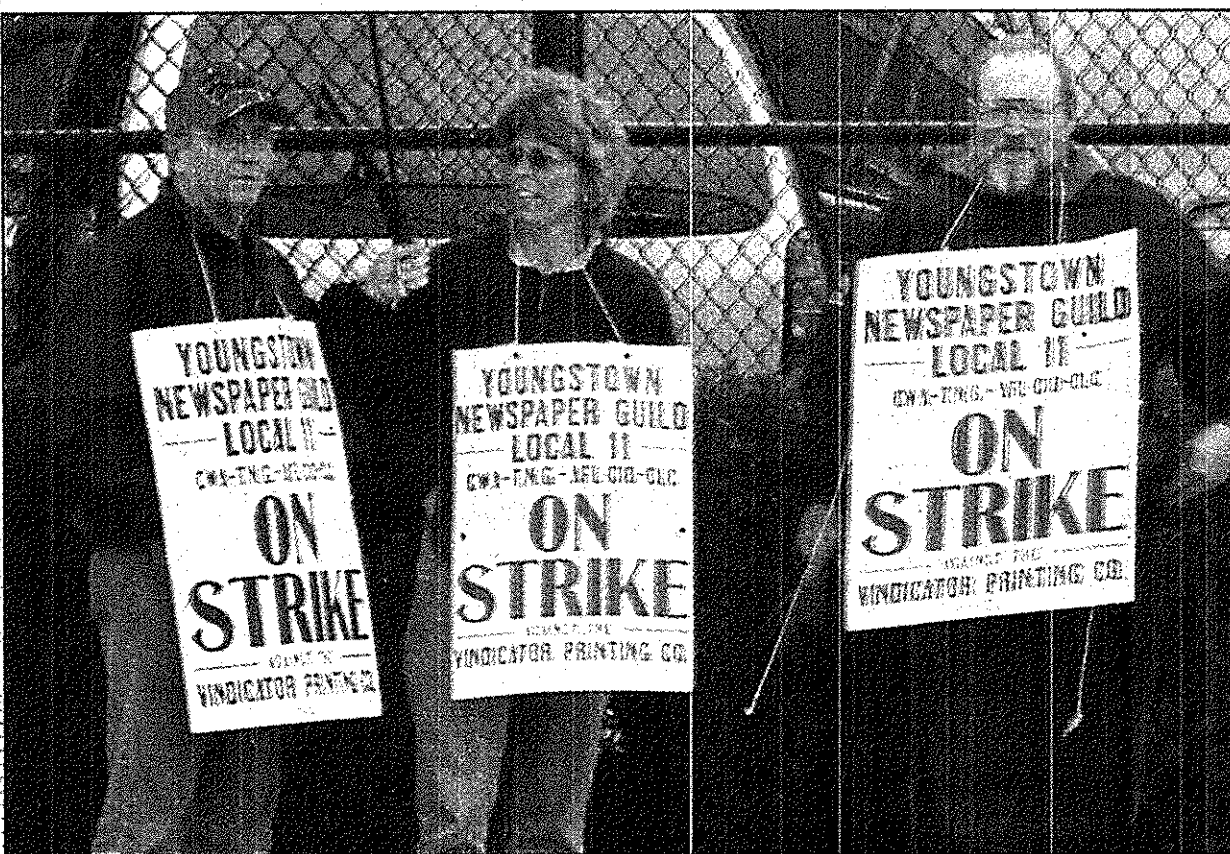
"More students will bring more money," Sweet said. "And that will help maintain and enhance the excellence of our programs."

Sweet also said dual admission would be an incentive to BC3 students because it "ensures them a slot" at YSU.

Nick Neupauer, interim vice president for academic affairs at BC3, said both agreements free students to concentrate on classwork instead of worrying about what courses to take.

Although dual admission will provide students with a set idea,

see *Butler*, page 2



Members of the Youngstown Newspaper Guild walked the picket line near the Vindicator production building on Boardman Street in Youngstown Wednesday. (Left to right) Pete Mollica, Diane Murphy, and Pete Milliken are writers for the newspaper. Chuck Rogers | *The Jambar*

## No news is bad news for Vindicator employees

Union members voted to strike Tuesday morning

ELIZABETH TABAK | *The Jambar*

Donning sandwich boards declaring their strike against The Vindicator, the members of the Youngstown Newspaper Guild continued to maintain their posts outside of and around the newspaper's main office all day Wednesday.

As some of the picketers stood near the delivery truck lot located behind the main building, unmarked security guards approached to keep an eye on their actions.

Some began to move away toward other posts, and one striker commented, "I don't know why there are security guards out here. We're friends with the managers."

Union members went on strike early Tuesday morning after negotiators were unable to reach a final contract agreement



Uniformed security guards carrying video cameras patrolled Vindicator parking lots while striking workers picketed outside with Vindicator management. Both union and management representatives said they are

unsure of how long the strike will last. However, both sides said despite the strike, they will both continue to bring news to the Valley.

Debora Shaulis, vice president of the Guild, said the strike came as a result of a consistent loss of benefits that "were hard fought for by our predecessors." Shaulis explained the union has been struggling with the management for maintaining benefits such as healthcare for the past few years.

However, Marc Brown, managing editor of the newspaper, said he is still unsure why the union members went on strike. Brown said when the employees left the meeting there were offers being made.

"It was not a final offer yet, but they knew that it was not final," Brown said.

see *Vindy*, page 4

## Trustees discuss Sweet's contract

LEONARD CRIST | *The Jambar*

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees Executive Committee met Monday evening to discuss YSU President David Sweet's contract.

Once the meeting started, the committee immediately voted to enter executive session. Executive session bars the public from the meeting when discussing sensitive matters.

After a 90-minute executive session, the board announced they had not completed their talks and that they will meet again this Tuesday.



SWEET

Sweet's contract does not expire until June 30, 2006, but university Spokesman Ron Cole said the board periodically meets to review contracts and there was nothing unusual about the meeting.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees consists of Larry Esterly, H.S. Wang, William Bresnahan, Chander Kohli and John Pogue.

Phone calls to several committee members were not returned.

Sweet, YSU's sixth president, has held the position since July 2000. Sweet previously was the dean of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

With a September 2002 raise, Sweet was given a salary package of \$203,520.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

## Fifth-graders get "passport," learn about world

CHRISTINA POE | *The Jambar*

Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center was the hub of diversity for inner city fifth graders Wednesday.

Passport to the World, an event sponsored by the Center for International Studies, featured six 25-minute presentations from student groups such as the United Nations Association.

George Mastrovaselis, a graduate student working in

CISP, was in charge of Tuesday's events.

Mastrovaselis said about 150 students from area inner city schools such as Jackson Elementary attended the event.

For the program, each student was given a "passport" and was guided to five different rooms for lessons in subjects from world geography to the Chinese alphabet.

The President's Suite in YSU's Kilcawley Center was alive with bright colors as fifth

graders were welcomed to India as part of the Indian Student Organization's presentation.

Graduate student Rajesh Subramaniam, a member of the organization, said the goal of his group's presentation was to give students insight into the culture.

Subramaniam said he enjoying teaching the students and that they seemed to have a good time watching the group's slideshow and learning the game of cricket.

see *Passport*, page 2

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### the redlines

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ **Meet the Faces**  
The Youngstown State University Diversity Council will be sponsoring "Meet the Faces of Diversity."

Each person featured in the Faces of Diversity Campaign will be given some time to talk about his or herself. Following their speeches, there will be a question and

answer period designed to dispel myths about stereotypes and ask questions about the individual's diversity.

The university-wide forum will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 22 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center.

#### ▶ Math bake sale

The Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Society is sponsoring a pumpkin pie and baked goods sale.

The bake sale will be held

in the North Lobby of Cushman Hall from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24.

#### ▶ Christmas concert

Dana School of Music students will be performing in a holiday concert featuring chamber music, solos and small ensembles.

This event is free and open to the public and will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at St. Columba Cathedral on Wood and Elm Streets in

Youngstown.

Students request that the audience make a contribution to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Performances will include The Trombone Ensemble, The Flute Choir, The Clarinet Choirs, a Horn Quartet, the Dana Sax Quartet and a String Quartet.

For more information call Adam Zagotti at 330-746-5858.

#### Weather >> Rain

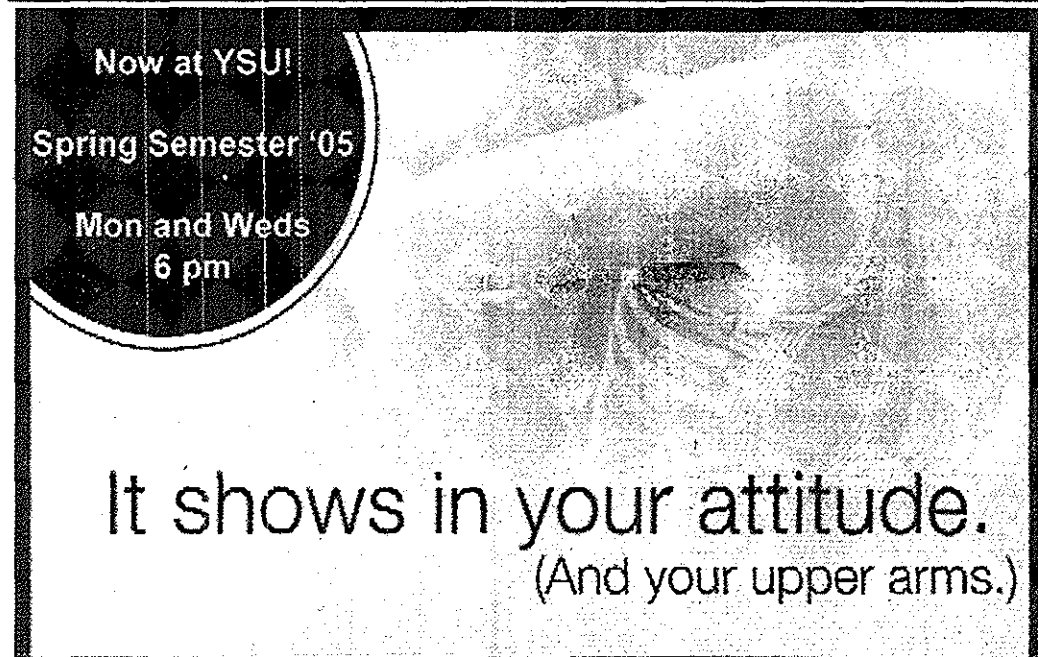
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**Passport**  
FROM PAGE 1

In Ohio Room, graduate student Anna Vinzza and the Italian Club taught the students the art of the Tarantella dance. Vinzza said the children were "so cute" as they tried to learn the dance. "They were not afraid to take your hands and dance with you and be silly," Vinzza said. In between getting her passport stamped in the Gallery room, Jackson

Elementary fifth grader Jawaylan Patterson said he enjoyed the Italian Club's dance tutorial. "I'm having a good time. I liked the dancing the best, because I like to dance," Patterson said. Carmelann Maszczak, a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Jackson Elementary, said the event was a fun way for her students to learn about different cultures that they aren't exposed to in the classroom. "They don't get

enough of the cultural arts in school," Maszczak said. "I think it's neat that they get to learn about different countries through YSU." Ashley Kougher, also from Jackson Elementary, said she was having fun learning at all of the day's events. "I like it because it teaches you different things about different places that you didn't know before," Kougher said.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-1913

**Butler**  
FROM PAGE 1

Neupauer said tools would also be available to those unsure at the time of their enrollment. Neupauer said a course conversion guide will be available to all stu-

dents and will outline the YSU equivalents to BC3 classes. "These will enable students from the very beginning to plan their curriculum and enjoy a seamless transition," Neupauer said. He added that YSU

would benefit not only in student quantity, but also in quality by receiving students already focused on their academic goals. Neupauer said the first classes at LindenPointe will begin Jan. 13.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-1913

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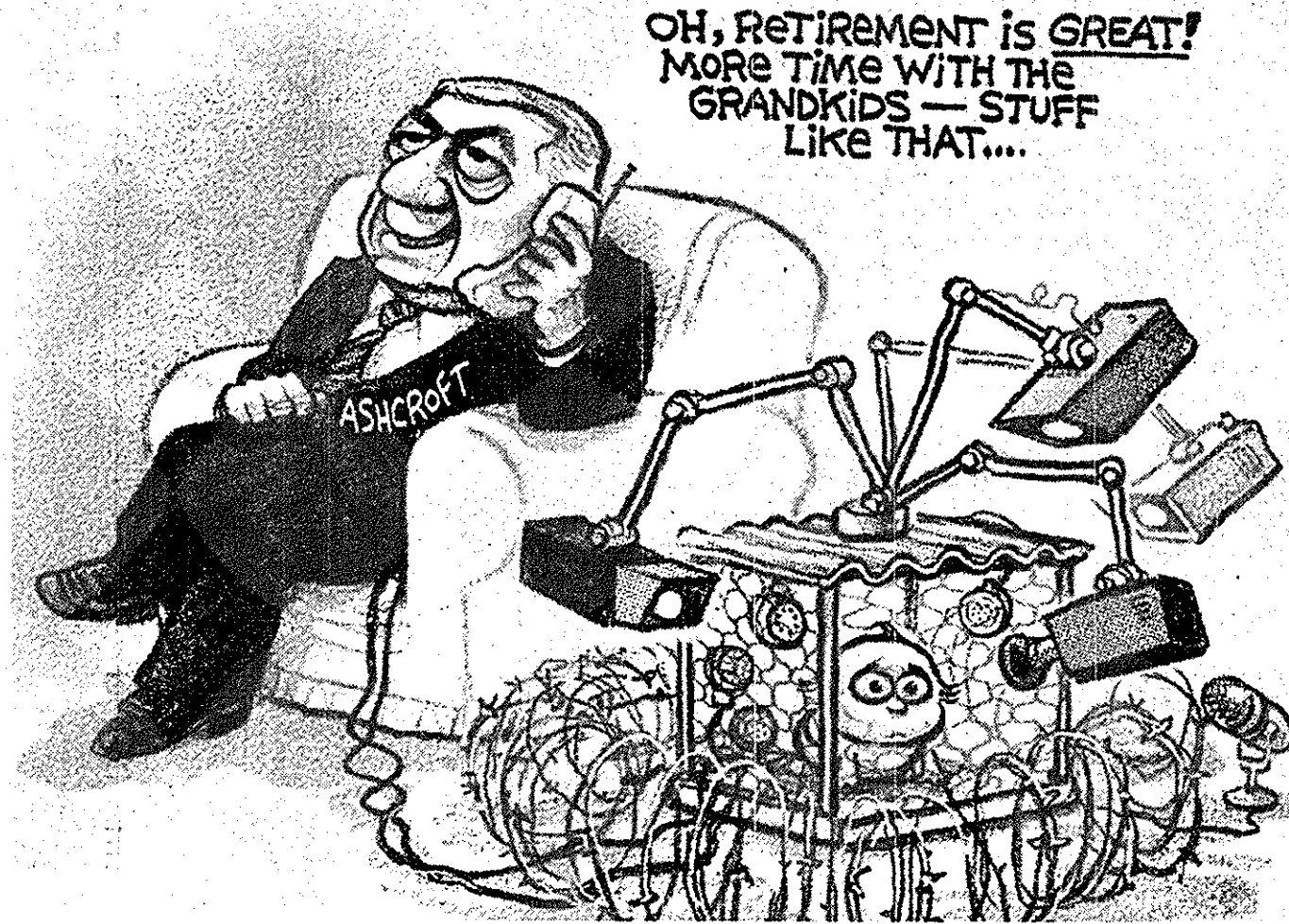
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**Youngstown  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

# opinion

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



— an editorial —

## Pardon us, but your bias is showing

The Youngstown Newspaper Guild walked off their jobs at The Vindicator early Tuesday morning.

The contract between The Vindicator and 179-member guild, which represents reporters, photographers and other employees at the Vindicator, expired before negotiations could be completed.

Picket lines have encircled The Vindicator's building downtown and the editorial staff has moved into the building, doing most of the reporting from inside.

Vindicator management has asked for wage and benefit concessions from the Guild, citing declining circulation and ad revenue over the years. The Guild says they agreed to concessions in their last two contracts and do not want to continue the trend.

We think both sides make a good case for their position.

It certainly is hard, in an increasingly multimedia age, for newspapers to compete with radio, television and Internet news outlets, especially a locally owned, privately held newspaper like the Vindicator.

But from the Guild's perspective, it has been four years since most employees last received a pay raise. Some Guild members earn only \$6.25 an hour, hardly enough to support a family.

With the decision of management to continue to publish The Vindicator with editors filling in as reporters, we expected the Vindicator to continue to strive for journalistic integrity.

Unfortunately, a noticeably pro-management bias was inserted into an article that ran on the front page of Tuesday's Vindicator about the strike.

The first paragraph of the article infers that the Guild is responsible for the breakdown in negotiations that resulted in the strike.

"Youngstown Newspaper Guild is on strike today after walking out of talks aimed at reaching a contract settlement with The Vindicator," the article began.

The article neither details the concessions that the management is seeking nor the specifics of the Guild's terms.

In the 15-paragraph article, the only mention of the Guild's side of the story comes at paragraph 12 when the writer cited an Associated Press story that quoted the Guild's Vice President Debora Shaulis.

It's hard not to view The Vindicator article as propaganda aimed at manipulating their readers into not canceling their subscriptions.

To complicate matters, the story was written anonymously, without a by-line, obfuscating potential conflicts of interest and shielding the writer from criticism.

We feel the writer, who we can only assume is one of the editors, should know better.

We find it especially distressing considering the fact that some of The Vindicator's editors teach or have taught journalism courses at Youngstown State University, courses that emphasize journalistic integrity and the importance of being unbiased.

Though the writer may have felt the pressure of management bearing down on him, at a certain point, the writer has to make a choice: integrity or job security. You can find a new job, but once your integrity is compromised, it is nearly impossible to restore it.

In contrast, recent stories about the strike by The Business Journal have been insightful, fair and balanced.

In 1964, the Guild went on strike and formed a strike paper called The Steel Valley News. That strike lasted eight months.

The Youngstown Newspaper Guild has announced intentions of producing their own strike paper. We look forward to reading such a paper but hope that it does not fall into the same pitfall of bias that The Vindicator now appears to find itself.

*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.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ESPN too quick to judge Youngstown

Editor:

I'm writing in response to a piece on Maurice Clarett, as I refer to it, the "The Youngstown Story" that appeared on ESPN.ca. The points made by the article about Clarett and the interviews were slightly overshadowed by the sensationalized marks about Youngstown and those who still inhabit the city. Although now removed from the valley, I look back to my days as a Youngstown native and Youngstown State University graduate with absolute disgust in the language of ESPN's story.

Their various negative annotations to heighten the argument in the piece which I allege was to paint a dark picture on an embattled city that has held on about as long as Ray Isaac Mickey Monus and the steel mills to last a lifetime. The more recognizable household names in Youngstown are Edward DeBarto, Jr., Bernie Kosar, Ty Mancini and my fellow YSU alum, former YU quarterback Ron Jaworski.

ESPN completely ignored writing an objective piece by labeling the city reminiscent to "Mad Max," cling it "toxic soil" and "tragedy of historic proportions." They unjustifiably victimized an entire city with their lies and it is unfortunate that the voice of those who know the truth will never be heard.

The Youngstown that ESPN is aware of is the home of college that has the highest enrollment increase of any public school in the state of Ohio.

YSU is one of the leading public secondary education institutions in the state with engineering, education, music and art programs nationally recognized and respected.

The university has also begun building a \$15 million recreation and wellness center that was 100 percent publicly funded by area residents and YSU alumni. The city has also begun re-developing the downtown area to add several new businesses. Most importantly, it is still inhabited by blue-collar workers whose parents and grandparents have lived through "Black Monday" and yet have still achieved tremendous financial success in the valley. Thus, it is a town that has been knocked down but not knocked out.

The city is neither depressed nor devastated as ESPN wrote. I believe Youngstown serves as an important piece of our country's history as a city that has reemerged after turmoil and unfortunate economic climates struck it down. It deserves due respect, especially from an outsider who was so quick to judge what he saw on the surface with no knowledge of what those people and that town are truly about.

Youngstown residents are the epitome of hard work, principles and have shown fortitude and unity throughout anything that stood before them. As a fellow journalist it saddens me that ESPN had the opportunity to objectively affect the lives and minds of readers but instead chose the easier path to deliver such an ill-conceived and poorly developed message.

— Michael J. Balala  
YSU Alum

## Opinion

### Conspiracy theories live on

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ever since the Nov. 2 election, the Internet has been blazing with cries and whispers that the election was hijacked by Republican operatives. These theories range from the bizarre to the merely implausible, with some academics across the country apparently feeding the conflagration with statistical analyses that seem to support the contention of a nefarious plot to steal the election.

So far, it's safe to say, nothing has emerged that would threaten to change the outcome. But inquiries continue, both official and unofficial. And even though many popular rumors are debunked almost as soon as they gain wide circulation, they often continue to percolate on the Web, probably because so many people want to believe them. It all becomes, in the words of one Ohio election official, "a snowball of hearsay."

There have been charges that more ballots were cast than there are registered voters in Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland. Not true, say local election officials. There was a quirky way that their computers displayed vote totals, but no evidence of tampering or fraud.

There were Florida counties in which Bush clobbered Kerry, even though there were far more registered Democrats than Republicans in those counties. Suspicious? Remember Reagan Democrats? It is not unknown for conservative Democrats to prefer a member of the GOP. Moreover, the Democrats deployed an army of lawyers in Florida, watching for vote fraud. The

result: No broad case of fraud has been found.

There have even been theories that the disparity between exit polls favoring Kerry and the actual voting — 51 percent for Bush — pointed to fraud. This may be the first time in history that polls predicting the vote on Election Day have been considered more accurate than the vote on Election Day.

U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat from New York, announced last week that his office would gather information from voters and activists about voting irregularities. He and other House Democrats are asking the Government Accountability Office to investigate the "efficacy of voting machines and new technologies," with an eye toward improving the system.

That's good to investigate. There were voting glitches in some areas, as there always are. They're usually caused by confusion or technical snafus. The nation needs to keep working on reliable balloting.

Most tellingly, the Democratic leadership, which fielded thousands of lawyers to watch for election fraud across the country, isn't backing the blog-driven outcry that the election was stolen. That's because it wasn't.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe has conceded as much. And so has David Wade, a spokesman for the Kerry campaign. "I'd give my right arm for Internet rumors of a stolen election to be true," Wade said. "But blogging it doesn't make it so."

Amen.

Have an opinion? We want to hear from you! E-mail us at [thejambar@hotmail.com](mailto:thejambar@hotmail.com)

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**Vindy**  
FROM PAGE 1

Shaulis explained that the decision to strike was not one that the union, which includes approximately 179 employees, took lightly.

"The company expects us to keep giving things back," Shaulis said. "We had to draw the line."

The two sides met again Tuesday afternoon with no agreements made. Brown, who said he was still surprised by the strike, added that there are still a "host of things" that will be put on the table for the union workers. He did not want to disclose particulars because he said he does not "want to mediate through the media."

The managing editor did say that he is worried that the strike, the first one at The Vindicator since 1964, will allow for competing non-union newspapers to take advantage of the situation.

"We are the only union paper in five counties and they are giving non-unions a

chance to come in here and chew up the pie," Brown said. "It is totally counter productive to what should be going on here."

Shaulis said the strike will continue until they reach a "fair and equitable" agreement. During that time, the striking members will create and publish their own newspaper.

"This is part of defending yourself when you're on a strike," Shaulis said. "A strike newspaper is a vehicle to let the public know where we stand."

She added that union members printed The Steel Valley News during the eight-month strike that occurred 40 years ago.

Though unsure of how long the strike will last, Brown said it will have no effect on newspaper production or coverage. There are two other unions are honoring their contracts and temporary drivers have been hired for deliveries. Also, the online version of the paper will also be available at no cost during this time.

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

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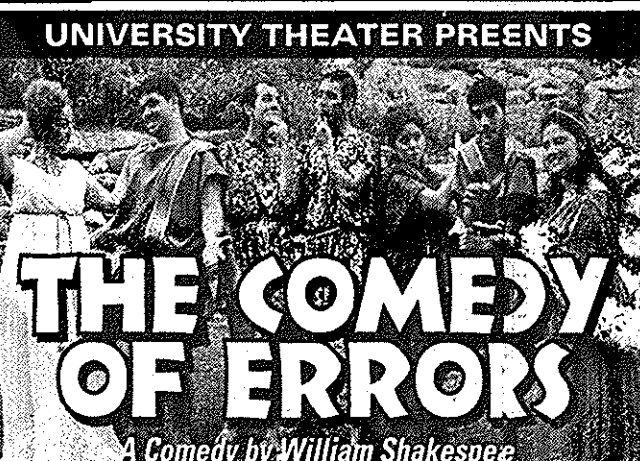
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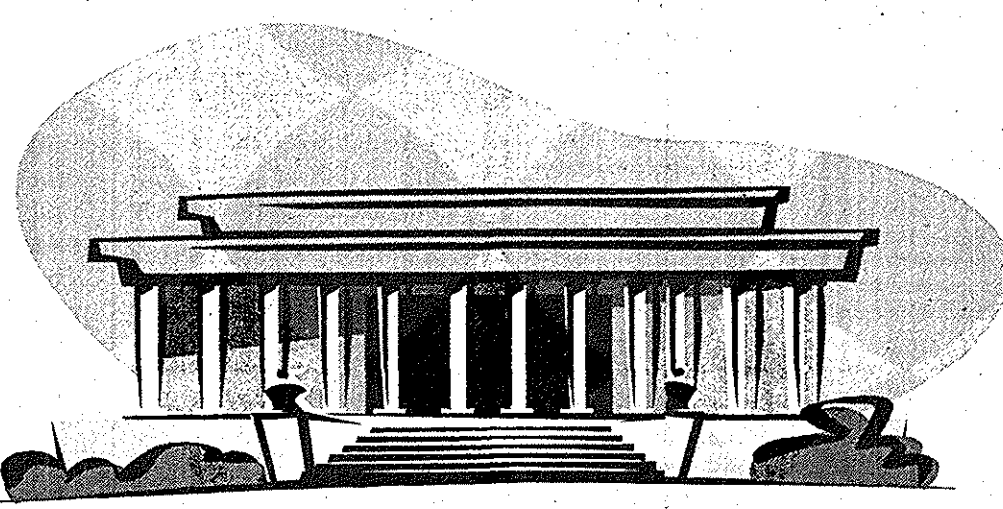
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Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are invited to enter an essay contest on the topic of his year's Freshman Readers Dialogue, *The Vanishing Voter*, by Thomas Patterson. Entrants should focus their 1250-1500 word essay on what can be done to change the declining interest of Americans in voting. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and paginated with one-inch margins, endnotes/footnotes, a title page and a 10 or 12 font. Entries will be judged on use of proper grammar, style, logic of presentation, coherence of argument, and ability to engage the subject beyond the level of personal opinion.

The deadline for submission is Wednesday, December 15, 2004. Prizes are: for entering freshman \$500 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place; for the top sophomore, junior and senior \$20 each.



Submit entry to: Dr. Bill Jenkins, Coordinator of General Education, Youngstown State University, 1 University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555.

# entertainment

## Music department tunes up for jazz degree program

**BILL RODGERS** | *The Jambar*

For the past few years, talk about a new master's program has been stirring in the music department.

This year all of the talk was put into action.

Kent Engelhardt, coordinator of jazz studies, has teamed with David Morgan, assistant professor in jazz studies, and Glenn Schaft, director of percussion studies, to begin the first official semester of classes for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies degree at Youngstown State University.

The criteria to enter the program include a music degree from an accredited university, a live audition or CD recording and a sample of written work, Engelhardt said. He added a slightly more academic approach is what makes the program different than most other colleges.

Engelhardt said he would like to see six to 10 graduates each year. He explained he knows it is a small number, but he wants to be realistic about it because there are other graduate programs YSU offers.

Dan Murphy, Seth Rogers and Bradley Wagner are the first official group of students for the program that began this semester.

Murphy, a graduate of the University of Akron, said he entered the program because he hopes it will open doors of success for him in the future. He said that Morgan, who contacted Murphy to enroll in the program, is an inspiration to him.

"One of the best things is to get the chance to work and play with Morgan," he said.

Murphy currently teaches piano classes with approximately 10 to 15 students at a time, each at a piano. He said he has a very good relationship with the students.

"I look like them and they respect me," Murphy said.

Engelhardt said the closeness in age between

the graduate and undergraduate students is helping them foster a good working relationship. He added it also gives the undergraduate students a different perspective than if working with an older instructor.

"Undergraduates have someone to look up to, grads set an example and act as a role model for the younger musicians," he said.

He said the response he has gotten from the undergraduate students was, "Wow, these guys play really well."

Wagner, a saxophonist, said he thinks the program is set up well, something he said has given him the chance to work more on a one-on-one basis with Engelhardt and Morgan.

A graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Wagner said he was hesitant to come to the area at first because he was unsure he would be able to get a job. However, he said, with the help of his instructors, he is managing just fine.

Though not teaching a class, he said he still deals with some public relations because of his involvement with the program. He said he enjoys this aspect because he gets experience from the "inside."

Another jazz student is drummer Seth Rogers. He said he has a connection to Schaft since he also is a drummer.

Rogers said the reputation of the professors in the department is strong. "They seem like people you can work with," he said.

Teaching a course in music theory, Rogers said it is quite an experience. "It's really true that you don't learn until you teach," he said.

The jazz studies program began their series of performances earlier this month; the new group of graduate students gave their first performance Wednesday evening under the direction of Morgan and Schaft.

**BILL RODGERS** | 330-941-3758



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHUCK MYERS/KRT

Le Tigre members JD Samson (left), Kathleen Hanna (center) and Johanna Fateman perform during a concert in Norfolk, Va., in this Oct. 28, 2004 file photo.

## Le Tigre gets its musical claws into something new

**Chuck Myers**  
Knight Ridder/Tribune  
News Service

These cats don't purr. They roar, but always with electrifying charisma.

With a blend of electronic pop and punk music, and progressive-minded lyrics, Le Tigre (Johanna Fateman, Kathleen Hanna and JD Samson) dispenses relentless sonic energy. When the threesome hits the stage, there's no question that the dance floor will be soon set ablaze.

Formed by one-time "Bikini Kill" band member Hanna and former artzirie writer Fateman, the New York-based group staked out its claim on the music landscape with a dynamic self-titled debut album in 1999. Samson joined the Le Tigre prior to its second record, 2001's "Feminist Sweepstakes."

On the heels of its recent third effort, "This Island" (Strummer/Universal), the band has reached a new creative plateau, and feels confident about its artistic direction.

"Right now, we're just really excited to have pro-

duced the record that we did," says Samson. "We feel like we grew a lot from the first album to the second album, and a lot, especially, from the second record to the third record. ... A lot of people want us to make the first record over and over again. But it's like we want to grow up, and we want to mature (musically)."

"This Island" expands on Le Tigre's interest in a pop format instilled with buoyant lift. The band really extends its music claws however, when it comes to its lyrics, which reflect strong feminist and culturally liberal viewpoints.

Opposition to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq provides the inspiration behind the processional force that drives the "This Island" number, "New Kicks." A fervent punk spirit fuels the raging "Seconds," while the rock-driven "TKO," conveys the band's frustrations with the slings and arrows of landing major label fortunes. "Viz," a number written by Samson, celebrates lesbian dignity and distinctiveness.

"I wrote that song ('Viz') because I felt like there needed to be a conversation about freedom of gender expression," says Samson. "That's something really important to us in the band."

The album's tenor takes a less issue-oriented turn with a remake of the 1982 Pointer Sisters classic, "I'm So Excited." Le Tigre integrates a few well-placed reggae dashes into the tune's famous ebullient tempo, giving it a refreshing new pace.

Hanna, Fateman and Samson split the vocal and instrumental roles in the studio and at their vivacious live shows. This division of music labor has allowed the group greater flexibility to explore different creative interests and avenues.

"All three of us have very different musical backgrounds, and likes and dislikes," explains Samson. "That's really apparent in this record specifically. Something we really wanted to do, and one of our goals in the past, was to make a record where we felt like each song could be by a totally

different band. So we're really into the way everything sounds so different, and that there's a hip-hop track, and a super pop track like 'I'm So Excited' and a punk song like 'Seconds.'"

While Le Tigre attained major-label status with "This Island," it maintains close ties with the indie/underground music scene. The trio remains firmly committed to their musical approach and the issues it feels strongly about — and having a good time.

"I think that the beauty of our band is that we don't really try to create some sort of middle ground," observes Samson. "It just exists. Part of that is just because we're political people, and that's how we wake up every day, and that's who we are. We can't change that about ourselves. But we also really want to enjoy this time that we have, creating music for our community. ... It seems impossible for us not to be too political or dancy or fun because that's exactly what we want to do."

## Clay, cartoons and computers create \*The Animation Show\*

**BILL RODGERS** | *The Jambar*

Malicious killer balloons, beautiful computer-generated cathedrals, depictions of life on other planets, talking balls of fluff fighting giant robots: all of these can be found in Don Hertzfeldt's and Mike Judge's "The Animation Show."

The show is playing at Youngstown State University all this week at the McDonough Museum of Art. Admission to the show is \$3. Part of the proceeds will go to benefit the ADESINA art club at YSU.

The Animation Show is an independent film that was created to showcase the work of animators with a lot of talent but whose work has gone unnoticed. The show was created by animators Hertzfeldt, whose short car-

toon "Rejected" was nominated for an Academy Award, and Judge, who created many popular films and cartoons including Office Space, King of the Hill and Beavis and Butt-Head.

The show's press release said the film showcased the "best animated short films from around the world." Films from eight different countries appear in the show's lineup. Six of the show's pieces have been nominated for Academy Awards.

Senior Sarah Tkac is responsible for bringing the film to YSU. Tkac said she has been working with the show for a couple years. Tkac said she has promoted in different cities as it travels to theaters around the United States.

The film played earlier this year in Austintown, where it

attracted very few audience members. Robert May, who works with Hertzfeldt and Judge to produce the show, said the film attracts a large number of devoted fans.

"Ohio has been great for us, on the whole," May said, citing a large turnout when the film played in Columbus.

May said the film was especially popular among college students.

The Animation Show uses a broad mix of animating techniques. Clay animation, cartoons and computer-generated features are all part of the show. The subject matter is very diverse as well. There are pieces that inspire awe, fascination and — especially with Hertzfeldt's and Judge's films — cracked-out humor.

One thing every piece shares is style. The Animation Show is full of it. Stories and themes aside, when you get right down to it, most of the pieces are just fun to look at. Hertzfeldt's cartoons are all done without the use of a computer, yet they are just as stylish as the amazingly complex computer animation shown in the piece called "The Cathedral." Every feature will wow your eyes in some way.

Perhaps the best-known piece in the film is "Rejected" by Hertzfeldt. The film was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001. "Rejected" uses hand-drawn animation and crazed humor to tell the story about a fake series of commercials that Hertzfeldt created to promote "The Family Learning Channel," which keep getting

rejected by the network. As the rejections pile up, the cartoons get weirder and weirder until they are destroyed in a tiny cartoon apocalypse.

May said the second Animation Show would be out early next year. The second show will feature a new collection of the year's best animation films.

The show will be playing at the McDonough Art Museum at 2 and 6 p.m. on Friday and at noon and 2 p.m. Saturday. The film will also show in the Butler Art Museum 2 p.m. on Sunday.

There will also be a special midnight screening of the show Friday at Nyabinghi in Youngstown.

**BILL RODGERS** | 330-941-3758

# sports

## Tressel, Geiger respond to players' allegations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS - In a lengthy, sometimes angry response, Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger and coach Jim Tressel defended the football program Tuesday against charges that players were paid by boosters and coddled academically.

In particular, Geiger had harsh words for former tailback Maurice Clarett and for ESPN, which he said has led an attack against the school by providing a forum for Clarett's allegations.

An NCAA investigator was on campus Monday to look into accusations that Tressel helped Clarett get a loaner car and that he and other players were paid for bogus summer jobs and received improper help in class.

"I'm not concerned at all," Geiger said of the investigation. "I think Jim runs an honest program and tells me the truth."

Clarett, who made the charges on ESPN last week, led Ohio State to the national championship in 2002. Under the current circumstances, Geiger said he did not believe Ohio State's title might be lost.

"Unless and until there would be found an institutional violation, I don't think it's in jeopardy," Geiger said.

Mark Shapiro, executive vice president of programming and production at ESPN, said Geiger's attacks on the network "are blatantly misguided."

Clarett was suspended after his freshman season for lying to investigators during another NCAA probe of allegations that he received improper benefits from a family friend. He then lost a court challenge of the NFL's rule preventing players out of high school less than three years from being drafted.

Family members say Clarett is working out with a trainer at an undisclosed location in preparation for next spring's NFL draft.

Alan Milstein, Clarett's lawyer in the antitrust suit against the NFL, declined comment Tuesday. Clarett's mother did not return a message seeking comment.

ESPN's Web site had several stories last week with former Ohio State players supporting at least part of Clarett's contentions.

"I do not know their agenda or motivation," Geiger said of ESPN.

He added, "I have been an athletic director for 33 years and have

been in the business for 43 years. I have never seen an institution attacked in this way before. For the university, for the fans, the students and the members of my staff... it would be wrong to be silent."

Shapiro said ESPN's reporting was objective and balanced.

"For anyone to accuse us of having an agenda against Ohio State is absurd," he said.

The Buckeyes (6-4) take on No. 7 Michigan (9-1) on Saturday at Ohio Stadium in the biggest game of the year for Ohio State.

Instead of addressing the X's and O's of the old rivals, Tressel began his weekly news conference by discussing the distractions brought on by Clarett's allegations.

"I feel good about how we lead this program and the intentions and the ways that we do things," said Tressel, who is in his fourth season. "I understand the rules of the game, the rules of the NCAA very, very well and have great confidence that we follow them to the T."

Geiger, who discussed the allegations for nearly an hour with reporters, said Ohio State requires all athletes to go through a seminar on NCAA rules. Staff members and all booster groups also are instructed on the rules regarding benefits for athletes.

If any players received improper compensation or help with their classwork, Ohio State had no knowledge of them, he said.

"It was not something that the institution should have or did control," Geiger said. "That's the litmus test."

Tressel said monitoring more than 100 football players' classwork and their compliance with NCAA rules is sometimes difficult. But he said he had faith that Ohio State had the best interests of the student-athletes in mind.

"We know that at times their favorite class is football. But we also know that the thing that will serve them in the long run will be their degree," he said.

Tressel said Ohio State's players respond to the message they receive from the university.

"I need to make this as emphatic as possible: I have great confidence in our players," Tressel said. "We have great kids here. We have kids who want to do things right. We talk about doing things right very, very often. They reflect that very, very often."

## YSU Students support Tressel amid controversy

LEONARD CRIST AND JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH  
The Jambor

Jim Tressel, the head football coach at Ohio State University two years removed from bringing a National Championship back to the capital of the Buckeye State, is under fire amid accusations made by disgruntled ex-players.

Former players at OSU have accused the coach of engaging in activities such as setting players up with fictitious jobs and providing cars to standout performers on his teams.

At the heart of the controversy is former OSU running back Maurice Clarett, a Youngstown native, who faced scrutiny after he admitted to exaggerating the amount of property that was stolen from his vehicle in April 2003.

A recent article from ESPN's Web site said similar allegations might have occurred at Youngstown State University during Tressel's tenure as head coach. The article states that Ray Isaac, a quarterback on YSU's 1991 National Championship



Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel speaks to thousands of Ohio State University fans on hand for a 2003 championship celebration in Columbus.

team, received about \$10,000 plus the use of various cars during his time on the team - a violation of NCAA bylaws.

Tressel was never implicated in the violations, but the article questioned whether Tressel intentionally remained ignorant of the players' conduct.

Former YSU linebacker Paul Kokos Jr., a Penguin from 1990-94 and a teammate of Isaac, said from his experience, he did not know of any improper gifts

Smallwood a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

"I believe Tressel all the way. His character is what convinces me. He seems like he doesn't let things bother him," said Smallwood.

YSU student Emad Aburama said these allegations have more to do with money and attention than the pursuit of truth.

"I believe Tressel," Aburama said. "It's all about money and the draft for Clarett. He is trying to upgrade his status."

Among those backing Tressel from Youngstown is YSU athletic director Ron Strollo, who took the position of athletic director after Tressel departed for Columbus. Strollo says he can see through the media blitz that has been swarming the Ohio State coach.

"When you are in this job long enough, you learn not to believe everything you hear or read," Strollo said, referring to the allegations made in the ESPN article.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989  
JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-3758

### Athlete Profile

## Outside the locker room with: Danielle Blagg



Photos courtesy of YSU Sports Information  
Danielle Blagg holds the YSU record for the 100-yard and 400-yard breaststroke.

NIJMA AWADALLAH  
The Jambor

Senior Danielle Blagg is off to a great start in the 2004-05 swimming and diving season. She holds the record in the 100-yard and 400-yard breaststroke and was able to shatter her school record for the 200-yard breaststroke with an impressive time of 2:30.69.



BLAGG

A Jambor reporter spoke with Blagg about her experiences over the years with the Penguins. She expressed her feelings about her teammates and how much she really "loves Youngstown."

J: How long have you been swimming?

B: Since I was 5.

J: Have you always liked to swim?

B: No. Actually I was

interested in dance in high school. I just did swimming just for fun, then when I got to college I enjoyed it a lot more.

J: Who do you think has been the biggest impact on your life?

B: My mom.

J: How does it feel being a senior?

B: I like it. I think I came a long way over the years. You definitely could see the progress, not just with me, but with all the seniors on the team, so I think the experience in being a senior has helped a lot this year.

J: Being a senior, do you feel like you have a certain role among the team?

B: I think definitely there are a bunch of seniors on the team and we play a seniority role on all the new freshmen, we play a definite role on trying just to lead them get them to enjoy their experience.

J: You're already off to a great start. You've broken your own school record set a

few years ago. How does it make you feel?

B: Excited. I've never done this good, especially in the 200. Usually I am a 100 breaststroker, so it's really nice to start out the season with a good start. Then I am going into a training trip with that behind me and hopefully I will come out strong after the Horizon League.

J: How long do you and the rest of Penguins practice?

B: Twenty hours a week, twice a day.

J: What will you miss the most?

B: My team. I think the girls I've grown up with, all the seniors on the team. And they've been like sisters. I live with them, so it's been awesome.

J: What are your plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?

B: I get to go home; I'm real excited to see my family.

J: What is your favorite food?

B: CHOCOLATE.

J: What is your favorite movie?

B: "Zoolander"

J: What do you like to do in your spare time, when you're not breaking school records?

B: Hang out with the girls on the team; we're really close. We're all like sisters, so I love to just hang out with them.

J: Usher or Justin Timberlake?

B: Usher, definitely.

J: If you had anything to say to your fellow teammates about your experience over the years on the team what would it be?

B: That I'm going to miss them. I'm graduating in May so I don't get to be around next year. That we've come along way and learned a lot about each other and that I love them all so very much.

NIJMA AWADALLAH | 330-941-1913

## Sports briefs

### Volleyball

Freshman Jessica Fraley was honored this week when she was named to the 2004 Horizon League All-Newcomers team. The LaGrange native led all newcomers with 339 kills, which ranks 10 all time on the Penguins' single season records.

Fraley has recorded 10

kills in 19 games and recorded eight double-doubles.

### Cross Country

The Penguin women's cross-country team recorded their best finish in school history at the Great Lakes Regional this past Saturday. Leading the women were junior Emily Schmitkey, who finished

74th. Also leading the Penguins were Marielle Glanz, who recorded the third fastest time in school history, while Kim Jendrc recorded the fourth best time ever for a Penguin. Lindsay Wojciak recorded the sixth best time in school history while Gina Mavrikis recorded the eighth best time.

On the men's side, junior Dave Mealy ran the second fastest time in school history to lead the Penguins to 19th place. Matt Paulin finished in at 91st, Jeremy Riehm finished in at 120th while John Sheppard came in at 144th and Nick Smith rounded out the scoring with a time of 34:18.