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HOT RODS AND ROUTE 224
 Contributing writer reflects on the joy of the Hot Rod Super Nationals.
 See page 4.



SEATTLE BOUND
 YSU pitcher Justin Thomas drafted by the Seattle Mariners.
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VOLUME 88, ISSUE 3

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

>>FREE<<

YSU

YEC: 43 students earn combined 75 credits

Dean Larry Johnson said first-year results of the Youngstown Early College program were "encouraging"

By Bill Rodgers
News Editor

After its first year of operation, representatives from the Youngstown Early College program reported that 43 of the high school fresh-

man students who attended the program earned a combined 75 credits in college courses.

The students earned a combined 2.9 GPA in college classes ranging from HPES, basic English and math, and criminal justice.

Larry Johnson, dean of the YEC, said the results were "encouraging" and that most of the students adapted well to campus life.

"These students were taken away from their cluster of friends and moved into a new

environment, but they made a good adjustment to campus," Johnson said.

Richard Bretz, assistant to the provost, worked with the program. He said the YEC stu-

please see **YEC**, Page 2

"These students were taken away from their cluster of friends and moved into a new environment, but they made a good adjustment to campus."



Larry Johnson, dean of the YEC

YSU

Enrollment down for fall; officials say not for long

By Bill Rodgers
News Editor

The Student Affairs committee reviewed an enrollment update and an overview of the financial aid plan for fiscal years 2007 to 2009 at last Thursday's Youngstown State University Board of Trustees meeting. The committee also gave an update on YSU's conditional admissions policy, which goes into a trial implementation beginning fall semester 2005.



Cynthia Anderson, vice president

please see **ENROLLMENT**, Page 3

YSU

YSU hopes to receive Weed and Seed grant

By Cheryl Thompson
Contributing writer

Youngstown State University is applying to receive the Weed and Seed grant, a program that will help with improving the neighborhoods around campus. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the goal is to not only weed out the criminals by working with agencies such as the FBI and the APA, but to plant the seeds of positive community involvement.

please see **GRANT**, Page 2



Gearing up for fall

Workers survey progress on the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center Wednesday outside Beechly Center. The center is set to open this fall and will feature a variety of fitness, recreation and wellness services. (Jambar photo by B.J. Liska)

NEW YORK

Targeting marijuana saps anti-drug effort critics say

By Stevenson Swanson
Chicago Tribune (RKL)

A new government anti-marijuana campaign has reignited a long-smoldering debate over how dangerous the most widely used illegal drug in America really is and whether it should be the central focus of the nation's war on drugs.

Headlined "Marijuana and your teen's mental health," an advertisement appearing in newspapers and magazines nationwide cites scientific studies in the last seven years that have found that regular use of marijuana in the teenage years can put users at risk of depression, suicidal impulses and schizophrenia later in life.

"Still think marijuana's no

big deal?" the ad asks parents. Yes, responds one leading advocate of decriminalizing marijuana.

"If you want to focus on problem drugs in the U.S., marijuana is the last drug you would focus on," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which favors treating marijuana like alcohol: a legal product that is regulated, taxed and illegal for minors to use.

"We have methamphetamine out there, we have heroin, we have OxyContin, we have booze, we have cigarettes. To make statements that marijuana in the hands of teenagers is this dangerous threat, it's ludicrous."

please see **MARIJUANA**, Page 2

The history of Cannabis

Cannabis appears to have originated in Central Asia and was probably first cultivated for its fiber. A look at the history of the controversial plant:

BC	2700	First written record of cannabis use in Chinese pharmacopoeia
	450	Greek historian Herodotus describes the Scythians of central Asia inhaling hemp, which makes them drunk
AD	500	First botanical drawing of cannabis
	600	Germans, Franks and Vikings make paper from cannabis
	1150	Muslims use cannabis to start Europe's first paper mill. Most paper made from cannabis for next 850 years
	1484	Pope Innocent VII singles out cannabis as an unholy sacrament of the Satanic mass
	1563	King Philip of Spain orders cannabis to be grown throughout his Empire from modern-day Argentina to Oregon
	1870	U.S. Pharmacopoeia lists cannabis as a medicine for various ailments
	1911	South Africa outlaws cannabis; in the following years, most countries make cannabis an illegal plant
	1941	American Pharmacopoeia drops cannabis from its publications
	1967	Famous raid on the homes of Rolling Stones Keith Richards and Mick Jagger

SOURCE: Cite Douma, "Hemp: Lifetime to the Future," *Environ. Monit. Assess.* the First 12,000 years; Jack Herer, "The Emperor Wears No Clothes," *Psychedelics Encrypted* a

YSU

'Women & Money' draws more than 400

The seminar targeted women who want to make more informed financial decisions

By Eric Grosso
Contributing writer

More than 400 women — and a handful of men — gathered on the Youngstown State University campus Friday for the annual Women & Money seminar, the free financial planning seminar for women who desire financial training and knowledge to make more informed financial decisions.

The 2005 tour of the seminar, started in 2000 by former Ohio Treasurer of State Joe Deters, used the YSU campus as a launching point for a schedule that has stops in Toledo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Marietta, Akron, Dayton and Cleveland.

The seminar, presented by Ohio Treasurer of State Jennette B. Bradley, has been held in cities throughout Ohio since 2000 and in Youngstown since 2001. The program was initiated to give women more financial balance. Women make 76 cents to every dollar earned by men and 33 percent of working women have optional retirements plans at their jobs, while more than 55 percent of men have the option of retirement plans.

Pam Palumbo, assistant director of university development, said the free seminar held in Kilcawley Center served a good cause.

"It helps a lot of women become financially independent and stable if they need it," Palumbo said. "It's free with registration, so anyone can

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Weather >> Chance of rain



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News Briefs

▶ "DownBeat" recognizes YSU ensemble

In the June 2005 issue of "DownBeat" magazine, the Youngstown State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble received a 2004 Student Music Award in the "classical symphonic band" category.

The ensemble, which consists of 57 members and has

performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, earned the second recognition by "DownBeat" for YSU. In 2000, The YSU Jazz Ensemble won jazz ensemble recording of the year with its CD, "Biddle de Bop."

▶ Money to be allotted for parking

Nearly \$9,000 to be received from the Ohio House

of Representatives will be used to purchase land located at 258 Carlton Street, where an expansion of parking spaces will be made in the future.

Rep. Sylvester Patton (D-Youngstown) announced Monday that the \$8,900 will buy .15 acres of land near campus for parking, a continuation of the state's support of Youngstown State University's

Master Plan.

▶ Graduation numbers tops for past ten years

With 2,025 students receiving diplomas during the summer, fall and spring graduation ceremonies, Youngstown State University had its most graduates since 1995-96, when 2,068 students earned their degrees.

E-mail us at thejambar@gmail.com

the jambar poll question

Should Ohio legalize gambling?

62% Yes 38% No

Today's question: Should the government legalize medical marijuana?

vote online www.thejambar.com

YEC, continued from page 1

students who attended college courses fit in well in class.

"The faculty response to the students has been positive," Bretz said. "They say the early college students are just as motivated as the other class members."

Johnson and Bretz also cited a good daily attendance record.

The attendance average for the early college program was about 96 percent. Area schools averaged at 90 percent attendance.

Bretz said the program's first year had a lot of successes, and there were fewer prob-

lems with bringing high school students to campus than were anticipated.

"People who weren't in favor of the program had any number of reasons why bringing 14 and 15-year-olds to campus would be a bad thing," Bretz said.

"To the students' credit we didn't have many disciplinary problems. They acted like young ladies and gentlemen."

Johnson said he had expected some discipline issues with the students. He said problems with the students during the year were "nothing major."

"The snags we encountered were not snags that we didn't see coming," Johnson said.

"These were ninth graders without any upper-classesmen to look up to. We were expecting some maturity issues, but other than a few minor incidences everything went well."

YEC opened in August with 75 ninth-graders. At the end of the year, 68 remained.

Johnson said this was because some students were let go due to disciplinary concerns and others decided they would prefer a traditional high school environment.

Bretz said 68 students had signed up for the program for coming academic year. The number is short of YEC's goal of 100 new students per year. Bretz said the program needed better promotion to market it to students.

Johnson said he wants YEC students to take on a different attitude toward education in the coming year.

"We want them to make the transition to being independent thinkers and learners," Johnson said.

Johnson said he wants students to view staff members as part of a learning relationship,

rather than in terms of student-teacher roles. He said he would also like students to use learning resources such as campus tutors more in the next year.

YSU President David Sweet said he was "very pleased" with the results from YEC's first year.

"We will build on this year and work further with the Youngstown City School District to make [the YEC] another YSU success story," Sweet said.

The YEC is a partnership between YSU and the Youngstown City School

District. The program was designed to help students with academic potential make a transition from city schools into a college learning environment.

In the YEC, students who pass a certification checklist are given the opportunity to take college courses for academic credit.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

WONEY, continued from page 1

attend if they want help."

The event holds smaller sessions followed by group discussions throughout the day on debt management, home ownership, basic and advanced investments, budgeting and other topics.

Financial professionals from Bank One, National City Bank, Fifth-Third Bank, Huntington Bank and other businesses headed the sessions. These institutions, including the Vindicator, each donated time and resources to the event. Each institution also set up an information table in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

Erin Gata, an Ohio State University graduate currently working toward a master's degree in business administration headed one of the sessions. Gata, whose session was on mutual funds, said she originally started doing seminars

like this one for degree requirements, but the seminars eventually took on more meaning for her.

"Knowing that you are actually informing and helping other women close the financial gap overshadows [fulfilling degree requirements]," Gata said.

This year, Helen Paes of the Vindicator was the keynote speaker. She spoke briefly to the crowd on the goals of the program.

"We hope that each and every one of you can use today as a tool of empowerment to become financially stable," Paes said.

Participants were able to choose as many as four out of the ten separate sessions to attend based on their interests.

Attendee Marcy Winlam said the format of letting participants choose which sessions to attend let her focus on

the topics she was interested in learning more about.

Other participants commented on the usefulness of the material, saying a majority of it could be used immediately in real-life situations.

"It was nice the presenters didn't go over our heads," Maureen Williams of Youngstown said. "They used examples of how to organize our home budget, and how to budget everything according to income."

"The investment speaker told us of small, low-risk stuff we can get into now with very little. It may have been simple stuff, but I've never had any education on it," Williams said.

Every participant was able to enter a free raffle with prizes including financial planning supplies and other donated items from program sponsors. The participants also

received reference manual for use in the sessions and at home.

Even though the event is targeted towards women, a small number of men attended the session.

Joel Netlin of Struthers attended the event and said the information being presented

was useful for all people.

"Being in the business world, you need as much information as you can get," Netlin said.

"This is good stuff, not just for women."

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-1913.

GRANT continued from page 1

Ricky George, associate director of the YSU Center for Human Services Development said the urban renewal program brings money to pay for extra police protection, more patrols and tougher drug law enforcement. It also provides money for social services such as after school activities and senior citizen programs.

The program, which has been in place on the city's south side since 1999, will expire next year.

"Because of the Weed and Seed program, there has been a reduction in crime in the targeted area," George said.

In 1999, YSU served as an evaluator to the project. George said that while the

program could be renewed in the same city, it could not take place in the same neighborhood.

This time he hopes Weed and Seed will be able to benefit the North Side. George stressed that not all of the money is going directly to YSU or his department.

"YSU is a small factor, this is a larger community effort," he said.

The YSU Center for Human Services Development is holding a meeting Tuesday, June 14, in McKay Auditorium in Beeghly Hall to outline the process of applying for the grant, a process that could take up to two years to complete.

"First we have to write a proposal and send it to the U.S. Department of Justice," George said. "Then we have to wait for a letter of official recognition. Then we write the grant and even then it's not a sure thing; we have to wait for approval for the grant."

After submitting a preliminary proposal by August, the university would be notified in the fall if they were to be selected to begin the official application stage.

Weed and Seed programs include more than 200 sites nationwide, and according to reports by the U.S. Department of Justice, the cities with the program have shown decreasing crime rates.

MARIJUANA, continued from page 1

And last week, Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman and more than 500 other economists endorsed a report that said state and federal coffers could reap a net gain of \$13.9 billion if marijuana were legalized.

The study by Harvard University economist Jeffrey Miron estimated that law enforcement would save \$7.7 billion, while taxes on the drug could amount to \$6.2 billion. Miron's study was largely funded by the Marijuana Policy Project, a Washington, D.C., lobbying group that

supports liberalizing marijuana laws.

The renewed war of words regarding a drug that has been prevalent in American society for some 40 years erupted in early May when John Walters, the Bush administration's drug czar, launched the government's latest print and broadcast ad campaign.

"A growing body of evidence now demonstrates that smoking marijuana can increase the risk of serious mental health problems," said Walters, whose official title is director of the Office of

National Drug Control Policy.

One recent report, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, found that adults who had used marijuana before age 12 were twice as likely to have experienced a serious mental illness in the past year as those who began smoking it after 18.

Among early users, 21 percent reported suffering a serious mental health problem, compared with 10.5 percent among those who started smoking marijuana later. The study was based on interviews with almost 90,000 adults.

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thejambar
youngstown state university

Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, June 9, 2005

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OUR SIDE

Public sector unions must be more flexible

With August deadlines looming for both the faculty and staff unions at Youngstown State University to reach new contract agreements with university negotiators, convincing grumblings from both unions have indicated a stronger willingness to strike than in years past.

A strike by The Ohio Education Association (OEA), YSU's faculty union, and the Association of Classified Employees (ACE), YSU's staff union, right before the start of the fall semester could prove costly to students.

Of course, the threat of a strike always has to be in the realm of possibility for a union to be effective, so such talk is understandable. Unions are vital to society and it's a shame they have grown increasingly irrelevant over the last 40 years. Unions, at least ideally, help working people earn decent wages and good benefits and help prevent overzealous companies from running roughshod on worker's rights.

However, public sector unions need to be more flexible than private sector ones. Specifically, at YSU in 2005, with tuition constantly on the rise while state support continually declines, the campus unions should not scratch and claw for more, more, more.

The average salary for an ACE employee is roughly \$40,000 a year, according to John Habat, YSU's vice president for administration and one of YSU's chief negotiators. The average salary for a faculty member in the OEA is around \$65,000 a year, Habat said. Employees earning that kind of money can live quite comfortably in the Mahoning Valley, where the cost of living is much lower than other part of the country.

To further complicate matters, it is difficult to know the specific demands the unions and the administration are battling over. Officials on both sides are hesitant to talk on the record and the OEA talks are under a mutually agreed-upon media blackout. All parties would be happy to quibble among themselves, but since staff and faculty salaries and benefits make up by far the largest portion of YSU's annual operating budget (read: a main determinant when deciding tuition rates), it seems only fair that contract offers and decisions be open to public scrutiny before they are officially agreed to.

But if administration officials want to credibly make the argument that times are financially tough, they need to take a spoonful of their own medicine. Automatic pay raises for YSU President David Sweet for the duration of his contract do not a convincing argument make. And moves like firing ACE president Christine Domhoff right before contract negotiations only add flames to the fire.

Just ten years ago, tuition at YSU cost about \$1,500 per semester. This fall, tuition is expected to reach almost 3,200 per semester, more than double the cost to attend YSU during the 1995-96 school year. While there are many factors that go into the cost of tuition, the question needs to be asked: if tuition is twice as expensive as it was 10 years ago, has the quality of YSU's education also doubled in that time span? Has the prestige of a YSU diploma doubled in that time? Has the earning power of graduates doubled in that time? Has the quality in staff, faculty or administrators doubled in that time?

The answer to all is "not likely." The unions would be keen to remember that while negotiating their contracts this summer.

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

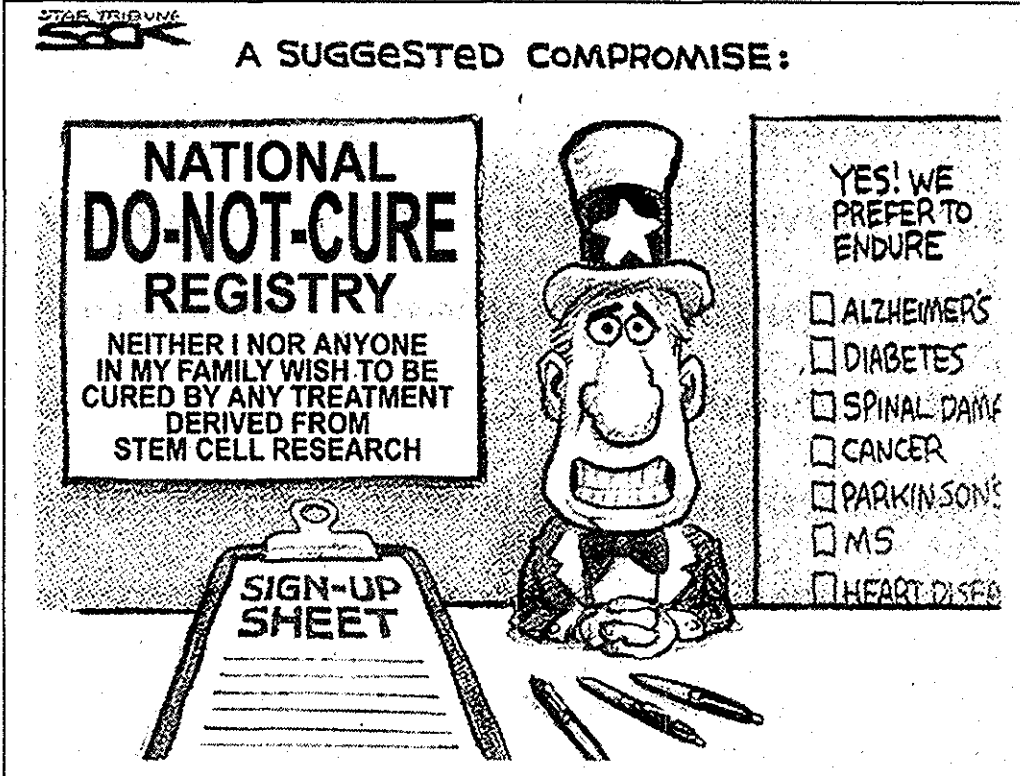
Administration, Trustees fail to make things better at university

Editor:
For generations immigrants and refugees have come to this nation with the economic faith that next year they will be a little better off than the previous year. That is a faith and a reality lost on the Youngstown State University administration and Board of Trustees. The economic package the administration wishes to impose on our classified employees has nothing of the American faith in it. Under that package, classified employees (secretaries, maintenance, groundskeepers, and others) will be worse off in real dollars next year and for the duration of the contract, possibly for their entire tenure at YSU. Meantime, David Sweet will be better off next year than this one, and possibly for every year for the duration of his tenure at YSU. Sweet and the Board of Trustees should learn a little about the meaning of America from the generations of immigrants and refugees who built this nation: we're not gluttons, not greedy, not selfish — we just want to be a little better off.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, Ph.D.
Director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center
Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Thank you for the support

Editor:
I am one of the three YSU students who lived in the mattress factory warehouse. My boyfriend, our two cats and I had been living in a beautiful loft apartment on the first floor for two years. The purpose of this letter is to express my deepest gratitude for all of the help that we have received since the fire. Thank you all so much for coming out to Cedars and showing your support; it means the world to us. It was amazing to see how many people were at Cedars on May 27. It was also very refreshing to see President Sweet in attendance. Thank you to him, all of the people who came out to help, our great friends who planned the event and Cedars who was wonderful to help us out in anyway, even holding our hands as we watched the building burn (Mara, thank you) and the people who have been thinking of us and praying for us. Even though this has been an extremely difficult time in our lives, all of the help and the benefit will always be remembered as a good time. Thank you all so much



once again.

Lindsay Irvine
Senior, Political Science

Air conditioning needs to be fixed

Editor:
For the third straight summer it looks like the employees of the Phelps Building will be betting on whether we have air conditioning each day. Let's see, in 2003 the entire building went without air as the university dragged its feet in getting a replacement system. At times the temperature on the second floor of the building reached 93 degrees. (By the way, the windows do not open in the Phelps Building)
As we sweltered, University Facilities told us to "go buy some fans." In fact, one wisecracker trying to be the next Jay Leno recommended we "throw a chair through the window" in order to let fresh air in.
In 2004 we got an air conditioning system by the end of June. Now comes the summer of 2005. The second floor has a temperature of over 85 degrees while the basement is about 68 degrees. I sure wish Bill Hyden and the University facilities department would be kind enough to get this fixed because it is very difficult to type on my computer while sweat is

rolling down my face.

If they can't get us air conditioning on the second floor, I may take them up on that offer of "throwing a chair through the window." But I'm sending the bill to fix the window to University Facilities.

Ricky S. George
Associate Director
Center for Human Services Development

Lawn project is bad idea

Editor:
I am senior at YSU and I have just read the recent news about the possible changes to campus. I think it would be a big mistake to tear down all the beautiful trees and replace them with grass. The look of the campus is a great tool to recruit students to YSU; they like the homely look. Changing our campus into a grass field would hurt the university. Not only that, I have seen some of the campus lawns suffer from lack of care and lack of people. How can they afford to make more work when they can't cut the grass that is already there?

Josh Zarlenga
Senior

NEWS

ENROLLMENT, continued from page 1

dent of student affairs, gave an update regarding enrollment. She said the number of students continuing their education at YSU went down for the 2005 summer and fall semesters. Anderson said that the numbers for the fall semester dropped by 94 students.

Anderson attributes the change to large numbers of students graduating from YSU; 1,688 undergraduate students graduated in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Anderson said that smaller number of continuing students could be from students being slow to register for the upcoming year.

"It's no longer critical to register on one day," Anderson said. "Students can register any time. This happens every year; many wait until the last minute to sign up."

To encourage these last-minute students to register, Anderson said academic advisors were attempting to contact students who have not graduated and have not registered for the coming semester.

Anderson said she expects to see an increase in graduating high school students entering YSU. She said there was an increase in students sending applications to YSU. "Traditionally, the number of incoming students begins to go up over the summer, then we have more students entering the continuing student pipeline," Anderson said.

President David Sweet said

YSU would "keep its eye on the target" of putting more students in the continuing enrollment category.

"We have our work cut out for us after the record-breaking graduation levels we've had," Sweet said.

Sweet said that YSU would be reaching out to potential students outside of the immediate YSU area with an information campaign. Sweet said YSU would go forward with newspaper, radio and billboard messages targeting students in areas such as Western Pennsylvania.

Sweet said that the messages would advertise YSU's financial aid packages.

Financial Aid Plan
Thomas Maraffa, assistant to the president, gave an update regarding financial aid and scholarships.

Maraffa said that the board approved a six percent tuition increase with an additional one percent increase to cover financial aid. He said the state legislature disallowed the extra one percent for financial aid, but the university would maintain its financial aid commitment for potential students who were thinking of attending YSU.

Maraffa announced changes to some financial aid scholarships at the trustees meeting.

The Martin Luther King Achievement scholarship, which is awarded to graduates of

Youngstown, Warren and other inner-city schools who demonstrate financial need, will be increased from \$700 to \$1,500 per student.

The PHEAA Grant Match, a need-based award given to YSU students who qualify for a PHEAA grant will be increased from \$600 to \$1,200.

Another need-based award, Housing Grants, will be changed from a \$1,500 one-time award to a \$2,000 renewable award.

Housing Grants are given to students who live in University Housing or the Courtyard Apartments.

Maraffa also announced the creation of a new scholarship at the meeting, the Mid Level ACT scholarship. The award would go into effect for 2006, it can be given to students who enter the university with a 22-24 score on the ACT and a 3.0 or higher high school GPA.

The ACT award is \$1,500 and is renewable. Maraffa said it would eventually replace department scholarships, which are \$1,500 awards given to university students with a 3.5 or higher GPA in their college courses.

Maraffa said the reason for the change was to attract new students to YSU with the ACT scholarship.

"We can give students money for college as soon as they enter with the ACT scholarship, rather than wait a year for them to earn the department scholarship.

Conditional Admissions Policy

The trial run of the YSU's new conditional admissions policy begins this coming fall semester. Maraffa announced at the trustees meeting that the goal of the policy was to maximize the chance of success for the most at-risk students.

A student is conditionally admitted to YSU if he or she graduated high school with a GPA lower than 2.0 or had an ACT score lower than 18. Maraffa said in a class of 1,250 first-year students, 75-100 were conditionally admitted.

The policy contains a set of restrictions for conditionally admitted students that may be removed when a student completes requirements including maintaining good academic standing, fulfilling a Center for Student Progress contract and completing developmental courses.

Some of the restrictions include 14 or fewer semester hours, developmental courses for the student's first 20 semester hours and advisor approval on any scheduling changes.

Conditional students will be informed of their status by mail, they will have advisement from college advisors and will have evaluation to continue or adjust their status as conditional students.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

POLICE BLOTTER

► A vehicle belonging to an YSU student employee was damaged June 1 when a pipe broke causing water and debris to fall onto the vehicle. The pipes were being serviced by Adam and Eve Drain Service. Damage was minimal, including nicks to the paint on the hood, top, and trunk lid. There also appeared to be a brownish stain on the front windshield. The student was advised to contact the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Department about the incident.

► On June 1 at 8:30 p.m., an officer was called to the M-2 parking deck in regards to a stolen vehicle. After returning from class, a male student noticed his car was missing. There was no broken glass or any other parts of the vehicle found at the scene. The student stated that the driver side door did not lock, and that he left the keys under the seat. The officer took the student around the parking deck twice looking for the vehicle. The officer searched other parking decks and Lincoln Avenue

with no results. When asked why he put the keys under the seat, the student said, "The car is a piece of shit. I didn't think anyone would steal it."

► Campus Book and Supply employees notified campus police that a man attempted to sell a stolen book to them Tuesday.

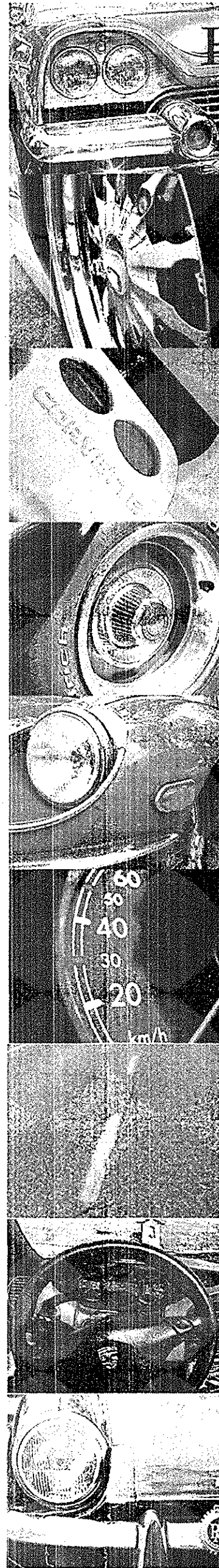
They also reported the same man sold them stolen books the day before. Lt. Mark Adovasio found the subject,

identified as Joshua West, 25, of Youngstown, shortly after in Williamson Hall. Upon searching his bag, Adovasio found a Physics textbook that had been reported stolen with another textbook on Monday from Ward Beecher.

West admitted to stealing two books from Ward Beecher and was later positively identified by a Ward Beecher employee.

West was charged with criminal trespassing and receiving stolen property and transported to Mahoning County Jail.

YOUNGSTOWN



HOT RODS TO

HELL

The glory of state Route 224 and the Hot Rod Super Nationals

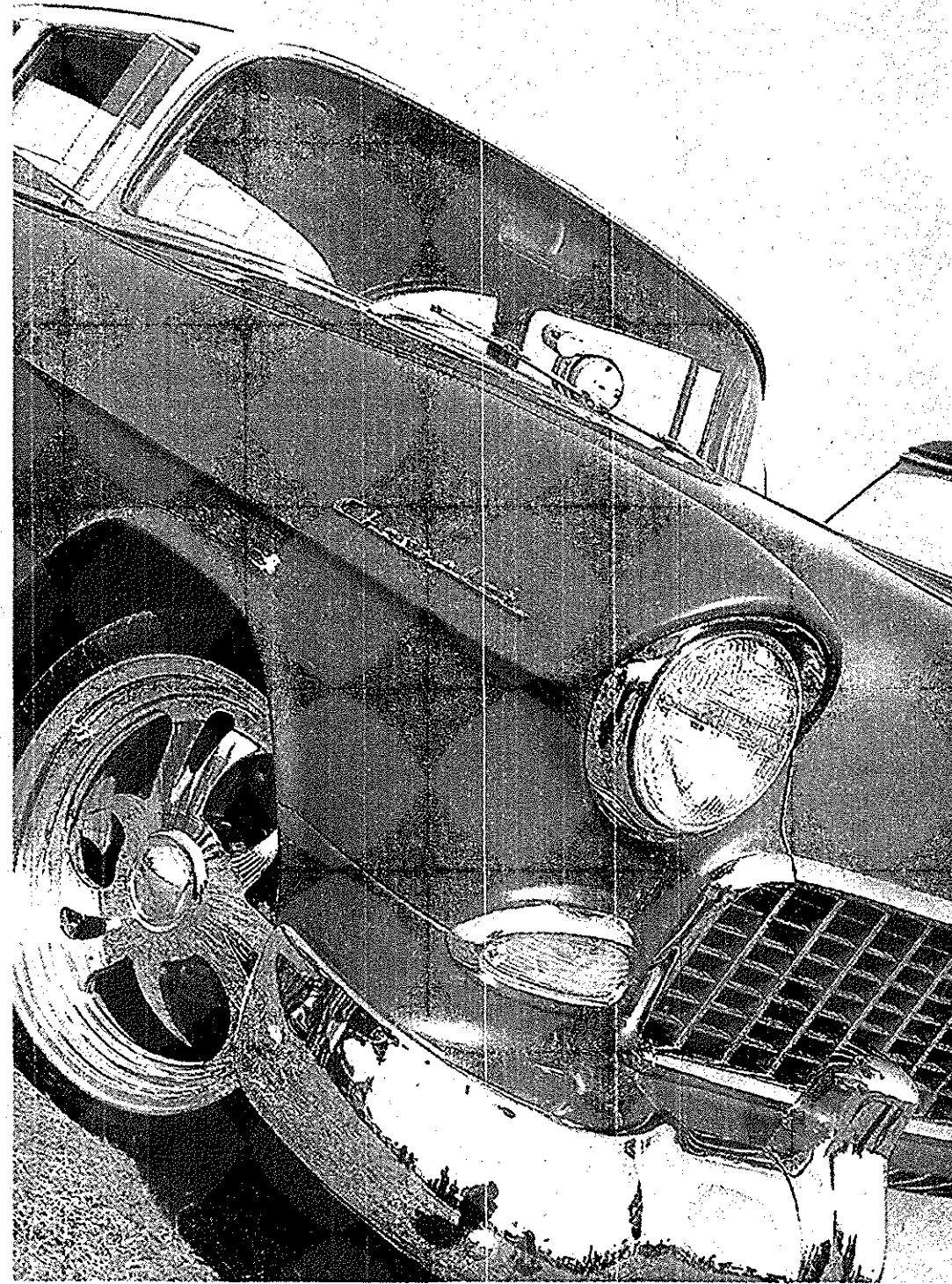
By Bob Mackey
Contributing Writer

When my friends started living in Boardman a few years ago, they were completely unaware of the Hot Rod Super Nationals. I don't blame them, as they were used to living the dorm life and usually returned home to Michigan every summer, a state that is decidedly Hot Rod Super National-free, as far as I know. When Memorial Day weekend loomed closer during their first summer in Boardman, I had to warn them of the impending doom of the Hot Rod Super Nationals. "What the heck is that?" they asked in a conversation that I don't completely remember. I could only answer them in a series of screams.

Being the auto-ignoramus that I am, I couldn't really give them a good explanation. "People take folding chairs out of their garage and ... well, they sit next to the street and look at cars." They couldn't believe what I was saying, and I could tell because I am a master at reading incredulity. "Seriously, guys, this goes on all weekend." Just as they were about to have me carried away by caring mental health professionals, I pointed out of the window (in my version of the story their window overlooks state Route 224) at the havoc that was beginning to develop in the streets.

Yes, this is what happens every year around Memorial Day on 224. I'll admit, the first time I went to the "event" — wait, you can hardly call it an event; it's more of an occurrence — the first time I went to the occurrence I was with a friend whose dad was very much into cars. He was Hank Hill before Hank Hill even existed. He seemed to have a good time, but my childhood friend and I feigned interest until we could escape to the nearby arcade (oh Fun and Pizza, how I miss thee) and spend countless quarters on racing digitized vehicles that also had machine guns. I have the same feelings about the Super Nats (which is what the cool people call it) now as I did when I was a kid: disinterest and confusion.

This disinterest and confusion is often met with anger, though, because every trip on 224 during this event turns into an impromptu parade in which one is given no baton to twirl. Some of us are lucky to avoid this road, but for others, it's a necessity. Having to travel down this route a few years ago on a Memorial Day weekend night was a nightmare I won't soon forget. It was less of a parade and more of a museum of wasted life. All around me were doughy, sunburned guys with mullets, swilling beer and shouting out things in a strange unintelligible language. I'm sure there are kind, honest people that enjoy the event, but at night it seems they're scared away by the rednecks and trust-fund teenagers who spend so much money on their cars you would



expect their vehicles to turn into murderous robots. I do feel a brief bit of consolation in the fact that while driving down 224 during this event, people had to look at my car, which is neither hot nor rod. That's fine mid-90s Chevrolet craftsmanship, jerks!

Now, I actually decided to do research on the Super Nats, because I wanted my rant to have at least some basis in reality. At first I thought it started in the 1950s, since its headquarters seems to be A&W, a restaurant so deeply entrenched in the 50s that you almost expect to see a "colored" section. But no, the Super Nats actually moved to Canfield in the late 1980s, a time far past the age of people hitting jukeboxes and saying,

"Aaay!" Really, people should have stopped being fascinated by cars after, let's say, the 1940s. It just doesn't make sense to me. The only car show I'd be interested in seeing would involve cars that could fly, have computer brains that wouldn't turn on the human race, and not use gasoline for fuel. But that's just a pipe dream. Not using gasoline? Get out of town!

All in all, it's a very all-American event, and like many things that are all-American, I just don't understand it.

Maybe someday in the future people will do something more constructive and less traffic-clogging during Memorial Day weekend, like lay in the street and look at clouds.

Sportswire

Information taken from the YSU Sports Information Web site (ysu.edu/sports) and wire reports

Justin Thomas drafted in fourth round by Seattle Mariners

Youngstown State junior pitcher Justin Thomas was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the fourth round as the 113th overall pick in Tuesday's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. Thomas, a 6-foot-3-inch lefty from Oregon, Ohio, was the third pick in the fourth round and is the first Penguin chosen in the draft since Matt Brumit was selected by the New York Yankees in the 44th round in 2002. His fourth round selection is also the third-highest in school history behind Brad

Hennessey (first round, 2001) and Chris Durkin (third round, 1991).

In just three years at YSU, Thomas set himself apart as one of the top pitchers in school history. He leaves ranked second all-time in career strikeouts with 250 — one behind former Major Leaguer Dave Dravecky — and third in career starts with 36 and career innings pitched with 253 1/3. He is also ranked sixth all-time in career victories with 19, and he was the first pitcher in school history to earn seven wins in consecutive seasons.

As a junior, he was named the Horizon League's Pitcher of the Year after posting a 7-5 record with a 3.42 ERA and a career-high 88 strikeouts.

Deadline to sign up for summer camps extended to Friday

The men's basketball staff is

still accepting registration forms for their 2005 day camps, which begin June 13 at the Beeghly Center. The deadline was previously set for May 27, but individuals wishing to participate in the camp can enroll until Friday, June 10.

The Week One Camp will be held June 13-16 while the Week Two Camp will be June 20-23. The cost per session is \$85 and run from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day. For more information, please call Assistant Coach Brian DePaoli at (330) 941-7207 or the men's basketball office at (330) 941-3004.

Penguins Women's Basketball releases challenging 2005-06 slate

Seven 20-game winners, five teams qualifying for the NCAA or

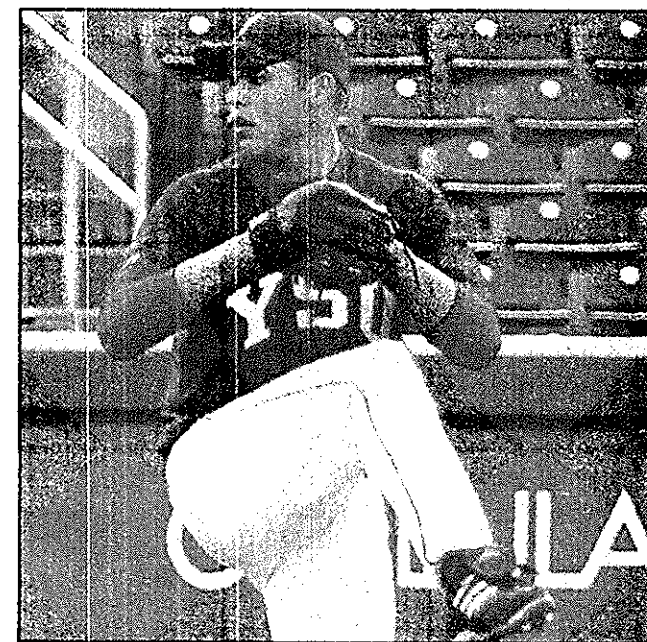
WNIT Tournaments and a Big Ten squad coupled with six home doubleheaders make a challenging and stirring slate for the Youngstown State women's basketball team during the 2005-06 campaign, Head Coach Tisha Hill announced on Thursday.

Coach Hill will face her alma mater, Indiana, for the first time as a head coach when YSU visits the Hoosiers for the first time since 1996 on Nov. 25.

The Penguins close out non-league play at Akron on Dec. 19 and host 2005 NCAA Tournament participant Coppin State on Dec. 21.

Like the start of the season, the Penguins open Horizon League play on the road as well with a match up against Butler on Dec. 29 and a New Year's Eve contest against Wright State.

E-mail sports briefs to thejambar@gmail.com



Big league bound

YSU junior pitcher Justin Thomas was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the fourth round of the Major League Baseball First-Year-Player draft. (Photo courtesy of Sports Information/Ron Stevens)