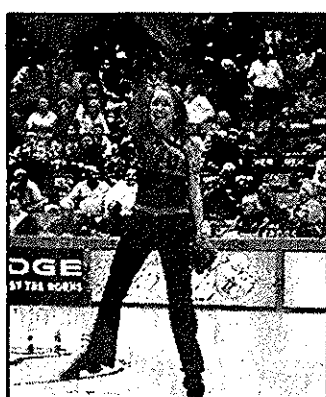


# the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 34 The student voice of Youngstown State University

Weather >> snow  
36 | 26  
Friday: snow, 31/19  
Saturday: cloudy, 33/25

Inside



▶ Men and women basketball teams in action Wednesday.

Sports | see page 5



▶ Bob Mackey's rules on enjoying the movies. Get it? Enjoying?

Entertainment | see page 6

In Brief

Correction

A headline in Nov. 29's addition from The Jambar read "Tuition to Climb by 6 Percent." The headline was inaccurate because the issue of a tuition increase would be discussed today by YSU trustees and possibly finalized in December.

Holiday silent auction Friday

The YSU Women's Club will host its annual Holiday Silent Auction on 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. The Penguins on Ice-themed luncheon will serve as a scholarship fundraiser. Call Jan Schnall at (330) 941-1478 for information.

Puzzling course this spring

A course entitled "Creating Games and Puzzles for Fun and Profit" will be offered this spring at 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Registration is open to any interested students. There are no prerequisites. The catalogue number is 3799 and the course code is 3209.

**the jambar poll question**

Last question  
Do you play beer pong?  
14% Yes 86% No

Today's Question  
Do you believe YSU officials who say a 6 percent tuition increase is necessary?  
Yes No

vote online  
www.thejambar.com

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YSU

## Diversity a hot-button issue

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University Provost Robert Herbert says he is pursuing new initiatives to increase the faculty diversity at YSU, including proposing funding five positions as an incentive for departments to hire underrepresented faculty members and requiring faculty search committees to recruit from a bigger pool of diverse applicants.

The new developments were announced in a memo to college deans and department chairs earlier this week. The changes follow a meeting in September with the Black Faculty and Staff Association at YSU and a new report on the number of underrepresented faculty on campus. The new statistics show that the number has only risen slightly over the last few years, five in the last year.

The BFSA agreed to draft please see **HERBERT**, Page 4

## Blake: More support needed

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

William Blake, the lone full-time director of the small Office of Student Diversity that sits at the end of a hall on the second floor of Kilcawley Center, spoke Wednesday about trying to run an office charged with integrating diversity to students on a limited budget and with a lack of a supporting staff.

"I'm not bellyaching," Blake said. "But

we need more support to uplift and build this office so we can be more effectively and enhance our effectiveness on campus."

Blake's office is charged with increasing awareness of and accommodating student diversity on campus. He said his office's job wasn't an idle venture; his office reaches out to students from different backgrounds, making them feel comfortable and welcome on campus. This effort has a tangible goal in protecting the

please see **DIVERSITY**, Page 4

YSU

## Lead levels on roof potentially hazardous

By: Leonard Glenn Crist  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Maintenance workers in Beeghly Center have been temporarily barred from the building's roof without special permission following recent test results that show a potentially hazardous amount of lead near a drainage pipe, Sandra Denman, Youngstown State University's director of environmental health and safety, said.

In a memo written Monday by Denman, she stated follow up testing and monitoring for lead exposure in and around Beeghly Center's rifle range "is appropriate."

YSU has retained a consultant to monitor lead levels, Denman said. That consultant, John Kominisky, of Cincinnati-based firm Environmental Quality Management, was expected

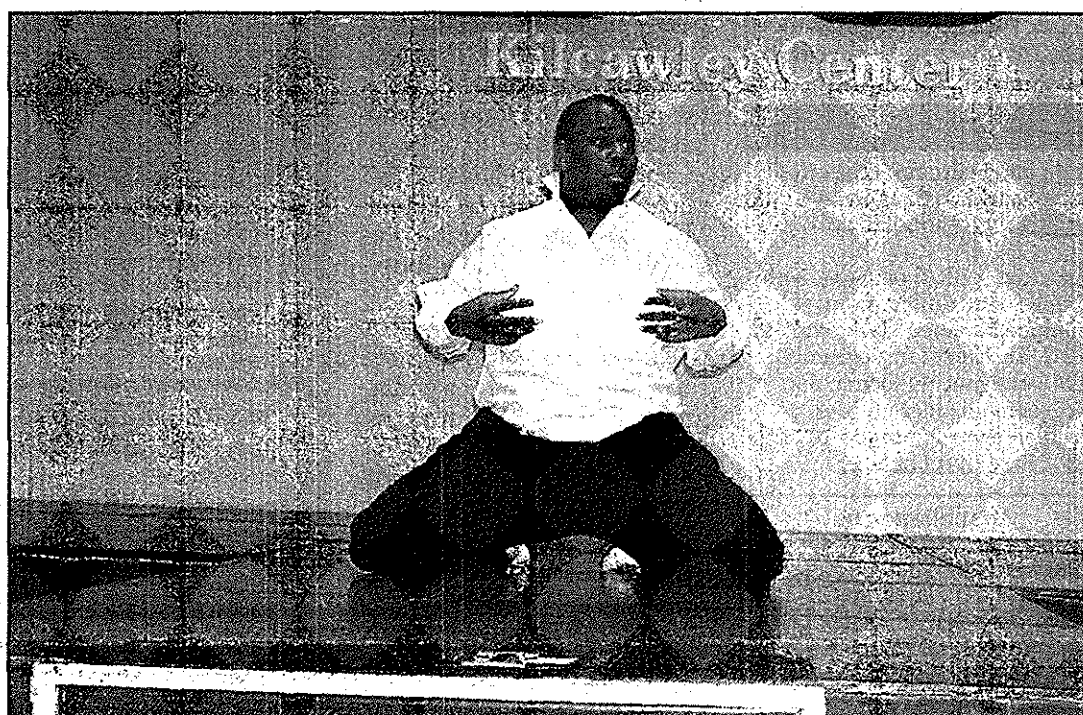
to be on campus this week. Denman said she hoped to have results next week.

Concerns were raised at the end of October that a new filtration-less exhaust fan, which connects to Beeghly Center's indoor rifle range, could potentially be allowing hazardous lead particles to travel into the air and onto a nearby playground. Ivan Maldonado, vice president of the Association of Classified Employees, filed a grievance against the university on behalf of his union, claiming YSU is not providing a safe work environment for his union. Maldonado later agreed to put the grievance on hold pending further testing.

University officials have countered that the new exhaust system is safe and in compliance with the law. Results from lead testing

please see **LEAD**, Page 2

## Bachelor auction for charity



Jambar / Katie Libecco

The Sistas With A Vision campus group held a bachelor auction Wednesday night in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center to raise money for the Beatitude House.

**ABOVE:** One of the bachelors shows off for the bidding ladies at the auction. **RIGHT:** Tony Dykes, right, and SWAV President Laura Neeley pose for a picture after Neeley purchased Dykes in the auction.



YSU

## McGovern will address trustees on tuition matters

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees' finance and facilities committee is set this morning to discuss different scenarios surrounding possible tuition increases.

YSU Student Government President Bob McGovern received last-minute clearance yesterday to address the board, asking the trustees to consider other tuition alternatives than the 6 percent hike recommended by university administration.

A 6 percent tuition increase is the maximum amount allowed by Ohio law.

Additionally, McGovern asked in a letter to student trustees Louise Popio and Paul Walker that the student trustees vote on the

For an analysis of finances at YSU concerning tuition, see page 3.

issue. Popio said on Monday that she would wait until after the meeting to formulate a stance whereas Walker said he was considering abstaining from the discussion.

McGovern said through a budget reduction and a cut to non-personnel line items, the tuition could be made more affordable for students and put YSU in a better position with the State of Ohio during the next round of budget talks.

"The more I think about it, the more I think that the six percent [increase] would

please see **TUITION**, Page 2

YSU

## Surveys gauge perception of YSU

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Following this year's 2.2 percent drop in enrollment at Youngstown State University, despite a goal to reach 14,000 enrolled students by 2008, the office of Student Affairs conducted two surveys of prospective students to determine how the university could appeal more.

One survey polled 209 applicants who were accepted into YSU but chose not to attend. Another was an image survey polling 2005 high school seniors and their parents to see how they viewed YSU's campus.

The survey was presented to the YSU trustees Tuesday morning.

Cynthia Anderson of the Office of Student Affairs said the surveys held "no surprises" but it could be at least one year of repeat surveys before any conclusions could be drawn.

In Fall 2005, 1,100 prospective students enrolled but didn't attend, of those 209 were randomly selected to be polled in a "conversational tone" to see why they chose not to attend YSU. Anderson said that the polls were taken to see if YSU could be doing anything differently to

attract students.

"It's not a question of if we're doing anything wrong, but could we be doing anything better or doing things we're not doing?" Anderson said.

The questions asked the prospective students why they chose not to attend YSU, if they had applied for financial aid, if they attended another university instead and several other questions.

The study found that the main reason for not attending YSU was that they decided to attend another institution. Of the 59 other

please see **SURVEYS**, Page 4

YSU

## Portal to open in the fall of 2006

By: Cheryl Thompson  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students, faculty and staff will have access to the new MyYSU luminous portal beginning fall semester 2006.

MyYSU is a Web site similar to MyYahoo that gives students, faculty and staff quicker access to personalized online information and post links.

Donna Esterly, the interim chief technology director, said the portal will feel similar

to the existing YSU homepage, but will offer much more to students.

"Users will only have to go to one web page which will be personalized to fit their specific needs," Esterly said. "They will be able to check their email, their grades and register for classes all from one page."

In addition to centralizing web services, Esterly said MyYSU will provide everyone on campus a way to improve communications.

please see **PORTAL**, Page 2

**LEAD**, continued from page 1

done on Oct. 31 revealed levels at the playground were within legally acceptable limits.

A second set of lead testing was conducted in and around Beeghly Center on Nov. 7, the results of which became available this week.

Those results also showed levels within state guidelines with one striking exception.

One sample taken around a drain on Beeghly Center's roof revealed lead levels of

10,000 micrograms per square foot. Denman called that result "anomalous" and "inconsistent with adjacent samples."

State lead standards vary by situation and Ohio has no regulations regarding contamination of roofs, however the highest amount of lead allowed on horizontal residential surfaces by the Ohio Department of Health is 400 micrograms per square foot.

"Additional testing of the

lower roof area is required in order to verify and gain a better understanding of this result," Denman said. "I think we need to review that result and until we get a better understanding of where that result came from - it's a number that's very different from the rest of the results from the roof area."

Denman said the drain emptied into the city sewer system, but that there is not enough evidence to suggest

that lead is going down the drain.

Maldonado said he will continue to keep his grievance on hold until the results from Kominsky's lead testing is in complete. He also reiterated his desire to have the area cleaned and a filter installed on the exhaust fan.

"I think the university just needs to take the right action. Do a lead abatement, clean it all up, put a filter in there and be done with it. And they're

taking the position they don't have to. Well it's going to come and bite them in the ass later down the road," Maldonado said.

He said he felt the university was playing a "stupid game" with the testing and retesting.

"Instead of just taking the proper action and correcting the problem. It's a game. They're trying to say, Oh its really not that bad. It's not an issue. Well, my maintenance personnel were told to stay off the roof. They were barred

from getting on the roof unless they were instructed to by John Hyden. So what does that tell you?"

He continued, "My objective here is to get the problem resolved. I don't want to get anybody in trouble. I just want them to correct the problems. But if they keep screwing around, we're going to continue to pursue this issue. And we'll just pester every federal agency until this problem is corrected."

Call Leonard Glenn Crist at (330) 941-1991.

**TUITION**, continued from page 1

not be the way to go, if we are to make a good showing with the next Ohio budget. Adopting one of these plans could pay dividends in demonstrating to the General Assembly and the Governor the fiscal responsibility of the university," McGovern said in a letter to the two student trustees.

When presented with information arguing that it may be possible to offset a

possible tuition hike through the use of funds in YSU's budget reserves, McGovern asked if the student trustees would ask the board if it was possible to use reserve money.

McGovern prepared a table showing different scenarios for his budget-adjustment proposal. In his scenarios, McGovern shows how the trustees could make up for money lost by adopting a lower tuition hike by cutting

non-personnel line items rather than drawing money from budget reserves.

For example, a tuition increase of just three percent would save each student \$190, while costing the university 1,941,800 in lost revenue. However, that revenue could be recovered by the university through a 1.31 percent budget modification and a 3.56 percent cut to non-personnel items.

Under a six percent increase, YSU students would pay out \$380 more for school, increasing YSU revenues by \$3,883,600.

YSU administration cites a maximum tuition increase as necessary due to declining state support, new expenses to the university from the recent contract negotiations and "budget challenges" such as utilities and summer classes.

**PORTAL**, continued from page 1

In their first meeting of the school year, the YSU Academic Senate passed a resolution vowing to improve the communications situation on campus.

Ron Cole, the university's marketing director, said that he felt MyYSU was a good start.

"It really is an exciting project that could really improve

the effectiveness and efficiency of communications across campus," Cole said.

Esterly said it's hard to tell whether or not the initiation of the luminous portal could play a role in preventing another strike, but it will definitely improve communications.

Access to MyYSU will be introduced to campus in two

phases. In the first phase members of the pilot group will have access starting in January 2006. Access will be widened to include all students, faculty and staff members in the late summer or early fall.

A variety of organizations are involved in testing in the system, including the

Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, the Admissions Office, Office of the Registrar, Student Government Association, Office of Student Accounts and University Receivables, Office of Scholar, peer assistants from the Center for Student Progress and resident assistants from the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

The responsibilities of the pilot groups will be to use MyYSU's features, such as the e-mail, calendar and groups to help refine the program.

In this first phase, users will be able to get to features such as CUE-mail, calendar, groups and single point access for existing computing systems such as SID (student information display) and SOLAR (student online registration.)

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

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Pray for the campus. Mondays at noon. Stambaugh room, Kilcawley Center. All welcome.

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Our YSU - Kilcawley Office will be closed Saturday, December 24 due to the University being closed.

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**OUR SIDE**

**YSU needs more diversity**

The state of faculty diversity at Youngstown State University is disappointing. What's worse is the hope for any change in the future.

On the YSU campus, the student population for fall 2005 is 15.2 percent minority students, an impressive figure. YSU's faculty is 13.58 percent minority. But of 427 people classified as faculty, only 58, or 4.92 percent, are black.

These numbers come after the YSU administration designated diversity as the sixth of ten critical issues in June 2002. The issue reads, "YSU will provide a climate of respect for all people. Its students, faculty, staff and course content will increasingly reflect the diversity of the region, the nation and the world."

Creating and maintaining a diverse student and faculty population is as important to a university as what's being taught in any classroom. The benefits of an accepting environment for people from all backgrounds, and the ideas they bring to the table, go beyond any measure.

It's not that the university hasn't done anything to promote diversity. It's just that it hasn't done anything successful.

Meanwhile, the once-thriving Student Diversity Council hasn't done anything for students on campus or the community of Youngstown this semester.

Search committees need to be created with a mission to look for qualified, yet diverse faculty.

Those who have spoken up about the lack of diversity in the faculty are to be commended. YSU Provost Robert Herbert, Victor Wanta, the chair of the Africana Studies and the director of Student Diversity William Blake are to be praised for their efforts.

However, the list of those fighting passionately and speaking out for a more diverse faculty should be much longer. It will take more than a handful of people to accomplish the university's hopes of creating a 'climate of respect' that reflects 'the diversity of the community.'

The creation of a diverse community on the YSU campus needs to happen and it needs to happen as soon as possible. 'Critical' doesn't mean anything else. Let's not forget exactly what it means for something to be designated as a critical issue or why it is important to create a diverse environment for students.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Commentaries and columns reflect only the views of the individual who wrote the piece. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

**LETTERS POLICY**

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

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

ANALYSIS  
**A surplus by any other name...**

By: Leonard Glenn Crist  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

This article is based on an analysis of Youngstown State University budget modification reports from Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05; July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005) and FY06 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006).

If you look at Youngstown State University's most recent draft budget report to the trustees, you'll notice at the very bottom a box that projects a preliminary surplus of \$0.

Without a closer inspection, you may think the budget situation is "tight," as YSU administrators referred to it Monday in a presentation to the YSU Student Government Association aimed at making the case for a 6 percent tuition increase. After watching the presentation, you might think: "Youngstown State isn't running a deficit, but it certainly isn't coming out ahead either."

But YSU is coming out ahead. An analysis of the most recent YSU budget projections shows the university is holding more than \$11 million in budgetary reserves, despite a budget report that shows a \$0 surplus.

As of the FY06 December modified budget, the \$11 million breaks down as follows:

- \$138,000 in Strategic Initiatives
- \$1,000,000 in an Early Retirement Incentive Program Reserve
- \$3,297,749 in Institutional and Departmental Reserves
- \$6,588,386 in the General Operating Reserve

A fifth category, Short Term Budget Stabilization Reserve, held \$2 million until this month, when its balance was disbursed to pay for faculty and staff raises and benefits.

**Surplus chicanery**

Perhaps more interestingly, despite annual tuition hikes and declining state funding, over the last two fiscal years, YSU has somehow managed to earn nearly \$7 million more in revenue than it has expended.

At the end of FY04, YSU had an end of year surplus of \$3,406,977. Instead of counting that surplus as revenue (which it was) they immediately "spent" it, moving \$3,156,977 of it into various budgetary reserves, which are considered expenditures, but aren't actually expended on anything.

They did it again at the end of FY05 (which ended June 30, 2005). YSU finished the year with a revenue surplus of \$3,493,017, but quietly brushed that money under

the rug, moving it to the expense column; \$3,058,328 of that surplus went into reserves.

Eventually, some of that money does get spent. But that isn't really the point. The appearance of a \$0 surplus allows for an accumulation of student sympathy and media complacency. Such a yield dwarves any financial benefit a budgetary reserve might possess. To be sure, there are political objectives in addition to any purely fiduciary ones.

When administrators ask for a tuition increase, they can open YSU's empty wallet and show us that there's nothing inside. But nestled discreetly underneath its bed is a shoebox filled with several million dollars.

There is nothing illegal about this, of course, but it gives the illusion to the few people outside the administration who actually look at the budget material (namely the press and student leaders) that when YSU President David Sweet says, "Money is tight," he's being honest.

**You want to explain that one more time?**

It's hard to wrap your head around this kind of stuff (numbers, politics, accounting practices), so let me try to elaborate on what happens.

The YSU Board of Trustees holds quarterly meetings each year (and other meetings as necessary). During the June round of trustee meetings, the board passes the next fiscal year's budget. That budget gets modified every quarter to reflect the actual budget situation (if enrollment is better or worse than projected, if the state funding situation changes, if union contracts are renegotiated, etc.)

In the September round of meetings, the current fiscal year's budget is modified to reflect any surplus or deficit from the previous fiscal year. It has been YSU's experience over the last few years that the previous fiscal year has produced a surplus, which gets forwarded to the current fiscal year. The university calls this a Balance Forward.

But here is where the accounting shenanigans kick in. In the September modification, the university moves that Balance Forward from the revenue side of the budget to the expense side.

Just like that. Nothing has changed except for the label.

This leads to odd budget sheets where money is subtracted from one expense only to be added to a different expense, further demonstrating that these reserves should

be included on the revenue side.

Returning to this year's figures for better illustration, YSU earned nearly \$3.5 million more in tuition and state aid between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005 than it actually spent. When it came time this September to account for that extra cash, instead of adding the \$3.5 million to the revenue side of the budget, which would give YSU a \$3.5 million surplus, administrators moved the money to the expense column, even though most of the money was not being spent on anything.

A small amount of Balance Forward money over the last two years has gone toward personnel and other expenses, but the vast majority of the previous year's surplus goes into various YSU reserves.

The \$3.5 million surplus was cut into five parts on its journey to the expense column: A bit more than \$2 million was deposited into Institutional and Departmental Reserves, \$1 million was put in an Early Retirement Incentive Program Reserve and a combined \$434,000 was spent on Strategic Initiatives, Non-Mandatory Transfers and Operating Expenses.

The end result of this is that in December, when Sweet comes to the students and says, "Money is tight. We need to raise tuition," he can point to the budget report and show that YSU does not have any projected surplus. But you can bet your bottom dollar that next September there will be a balance forward from this fiscal year showing that YSU did indeed have a surplus.

**Feasible: A smaller tuition hike**

An argument can be made for reserves. It is money tucked away in case something drastic happens and YSU needs some quick cash.

But if the difference in earned revenue between a 6 percent tuition increase (the most allowed by law) and a 3 percent increase (which is more in line with the inflation rate) is a dollar amount below the previous Fiscal Year Balance Forward, then saying YSU is flat broke and asking college students to cough up more cash is simply dishonest. In other words, YSU can afford a smaller tuition hike.

Putting it in actual dollars, YSU estimates the 6 percent increase will generate \$3.8 million in extra revenue for the university. A 3 percent increase would therefore generate \$1.9 million in revenue. YSU could easily afford a 3 percent tuition hike and cover the difference by using some of the \$3.5

million left over from last year, which is not to mention the 3.4 million left over from the year before.

**Strikes not to blame**

Another thought to consider is that the budget approved in June was for \$147.8 million. You would think YSU should be able to live within its \$147.8 million budget. But, because of the \$3.5 million Balance Forward, YSU is projecting to spend \$151.3 million this year. Why do they suddenly need to spend more money?

A simple answer would be the strikes, but that isn't really it. Recent history at YSU shows that campus employees (faculty, staff and administrators) will generally receive annual 3 percent cost of living adjustments. But when calculating YSU's FY06 budget this June, they did not budget for an increase in personnel costs.

Here are the numbers: The FY05 budget approved in June 2004 earmarked \$89.7 million for Personnel costs (this includes faculty, staff, administrators, police, part-time and full-time, student employees, benefits - essentially, everything). The FY06 budget approved in June 2005 earmarked just \$90.1 million for Personnel expenses, which is an increase of less than one-half of one percent.

Administrators could not have realistically believed the unions would receive no pay raises this year.

The only feasible explanation for why administrators didn't budget more money for personnel in FY06 is because when it came time to ask for a tuition increase, Sweet wanted to be able to point his finger at the unions and say to students, "This is why."

And that is what happened. If you look at the FY06 December adjustments that are coming before the board this week, administrators are just now budgeting an extra \$3 million for faculty and staff raises and benefits.

And where is that money coming from? You guessed it: The reserves.

If the reserves are supposed to be used only if "the bottom falls out," then why is YSU dipping into them to pay for historically normal and totally expected cost of living adjustments? And if administrators can tap the reserves for normal budget expectations, such as salary increases, why can't they also tap the reserves to reduce tuition increases, which sadly are also becoming normal budget expectations?

Confused? Call Leonard Crist at (330) 941-1991.



**SURVEYS**, continued from page 1

institutions mentioned, Kent State was the popular choice. Often the other schools were chosen because of scholarships, cost, and proximity to family and friends. Other students wanted to attend school farther away from home.

Financial aid was another big factor in students not choosing YSU. The study

showed that some students applied late, while others said they couldn't get enough financial aid to attend school through the fall semester.

Other students decided not to attend college at all. Some made the decision to work instead of going to school and others said college wasn't a priority. Others said they sim-

ply weren't ready to attend school.

The image survey polled 2005 high school graduates and their parents. It asked the question how YSU was perceived compared to its competitors. It asked those polled how they perceived YSU in terms of safety, the campus, Youngstown, intellectual cli-

mate, graduates, concern for students and cost/value.

The survey showed YSU was perceived positively according to value/cost, availability of majors and campus/academic facilities; but negatively according to the Youngstown community and academic ability of students.

Anderson said the image survey held no surprises either.

"The image survey served as an affirmation of what we believed or found out before," Anderson said.

She said that a lot of the negative perceptions of YSU could be changed if they were able to bring more parents

and students to campus.

"If we can get parents and students here, they'd be amazed at this diamond in the middle of Youngstown," Anderson said.

Anderson said the surveys could eventually be used to enhance and refine YSU's marketing campaign. Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**HERBERT**, continued from page 1

proposal of suggestions to give to the provost next semester, outlining suggestions the group has for the university to increase the number and retain diverse faculty on campus.

The provost said earlier this week that he had some ideas for how underrepresented faculty could be increased on campus. He addressed other concerns Victor Wan-Tatah, the chair of the Africana Studies Department, raised about university hiring practices.

Herbert said the university administration was committed to increasing underrepresented faculty and that they would be "doubling their efforts."

"The traditional approach

wasn't getting the results we wanted," Herbert said about some of the university's hiring practices.

Herbert said search committees in charge of recruiting new faculty members now must demonstrate they made an effort to recruit candidates from a diverse pool. He said the committees needed to put forth the extra effort.

"It takes more time and effort now," Herbert said.

Herbert said he was also looking at setting aside funds for five faculty positions for underrepresented faculty next year. These positions would be offered as incentives for departments to hire underrepresented faculty. The university would increase its numbers

of diverse faculty, and the department hiring the new faculty member would be able to do so outside of their budget.

Wan-Tatah said he believes the plans could work if they were consistently followed through with.

"If these plans can be implemented and followed up on consistently, they could work. The proof of the pudding is in the eating though. I'll wait until I see the changes to believe it," Wan-Tatah said.

Wan-Tatah also said that just as much needed done to retain faculty members.

"Once they're hired, it's more important to keep them," Wan-Tatah said.

Wan-Tatah said he would suggest a mentoring program

be developed on campus to integrate new faculty. He also said there needed to be a system that recognized the achievements of professors, so that existing faculty members wouldn't feel overlooked and dispirited. When asked about the idea, Herbert said that lack of recognition wasn't a problem unique to underrepresented faculty.

He said the problem of unrecognized achievements was more a problem with communication.

"Communication is not a strength of this campus. We need to work on that," Herbert said.

"Recognition needs to start in the department to make our [administration] level aware of

good work performed by faculty members so we can celebrate their achievements," Herbert added.

Answering concerns that underrepresented faculty were rarely appointed to higher positions on staff, Herbert said these concerns needed to "step up to the plate" when a position opened up on campus.

"We're about to launch a search for a Dean of Fine and Performing Arts and for the director for the Center of

International Studies," Herbert said, saying that underrepresented faculty should apply and inform their colleagues about the opening.

Wan-Tatah said a diverse faculty was a "major resource" for a university campus.

"It's a basic conviction, not just an afterthought," Wan-Tatah said. "The value is immeasurable. Diversity produces well-rounded citizens. They're able to fit into the world community."

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**DIVERSITY**, continued from page 1

retention rate of the student body on YSU's campus.

The problem, Blake says, is that the effectiveness of his program is held back by a small budget and lack of full-time faculty. He says his office needs more of a commitment from the university.

"I'm the only full-time staff member. I oversee every program from creation, gathering an audience, organizing and getting publicity. The responsibility is on me," Blake said, citing the recent Native American History Month activities as an example.

Blake said without the help of the organization who proposed the Native American History month, he wouldn't have been able to pull it off.

"One person on staff handling everything is a bit much

to ask at a premier institution such as YSU," Blake said.

Blake is assisted by a graduate assistant and occasionally, students or volunteers. But he said as a director he would be able to run his office more efficiently with two program officers who would develop and facilitate different diversity programs on campus.

"I'm overseeing every element involved in these programs. That's not what a director is supposed to do," Blake said.

His graduate assistant is Tyjuan Young, who said he spent some nights in the office until 11 p.m. He shares the workload with Blake by assisting with presentations for meetings and drumming up student support. He echoed Blake's need for another full-

time staff member.

"He works as best as he can, but it gets overwhelming," Young said.

Young said that even with the extra effort, students still felt that there wasn't enough programming going on.

Blake said that with a better structure and more help the offices of Student Activities and Student Diversity could over programs that could reach out and interest more students. He cited the "phenomenal" turnout at the Rec Center as an example of a well-structured and funded organization on campus that tapped into student wishes.

Blake said YSU could use a Culture Center and said he sent YSU President David Sweet a letter about that in the past. He said with the culture center, diversity groups on campus could link in a cen-

tralized office to make campus-wide diversity more effective.

A centralized office would give diversity groups a place to hold programming, acting as a touchstone for different groups to come to hold events, Blake said.

Director of Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson said she understood that Blake was probably frustrated, but that his situation was similar to other offices on campus.

Anderson suggested Blake could spread the workload around to graduate assistants and possibly partnering his office with others. She also said it was a possibility for Blake to tap into student interns.

"Students can take paid or unpaid internships, maybe we could take a look into that," Anderson said.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**MOVIES**, continued from page 6

early 1990s have been co-opted, making the granny character from the original story "extreme" in the "Mountain Dew" sense of the word. Kids will probably eat this up, and I recommend that you punish them physically if they do, perhaps by playing a game of "who can hit the softest." I'm no advocate of abuse, but good taste should be reinforced during childhood!

The Producers (Dec. 25): Have you ever wanted to live in a world where the genius Gene Wilder is replaced by milquetoast leading man Matthew Broderick? Well, this new adaptation of "The Producers" is here to grant your Christmas wish, and as a bonus stocking stuffer you also get the histrionic antics of shrieking gerbil Nathan Lane! If watching a movie based on a musical based on a movie is a little too much for you, don't follow my example; personally, I'm waiting to eat the fruit pie based on the shampoo based on the board game. In

fact, with the chain this new "Producers" production has set up, I see all future entertainment, food, and pets as being "Producers" related in some way. When you look up from your bowl of "Producers-Os" (with marshmallow Nathan Lanes) at the horrible state of the world, don't forget that I warned you.

With all of the horrible choices available, I recommend that you make none of them and instead drown in a ravine of nostalgia by watching "The Goonies" non-stop during Christmas break. Just like that movie's theme song states through the lovely voice of Cyndi Lauper, I think you "R Good Enough" to follow my advice. And, if you want to send me a tithe of what you would have spent on going out, I would not discourage this in the least bit.

Bob Mackey is currently writing a movie that will be out next Christmas, about a pug and his heartwarming trip through Cambodia. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

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- ▶ 12/4 — Women's basketball @ Buffalo
- ▶ 12/1-3 — Men's basketball @ Eastern Michigan

YSU BASKETBALL

# 'Guins lose lead again

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

For the second straight week, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team battled a foe from the Mid-American Conference, and once again, despite an overwhelming lead, the Penguins fell, this time to MAC powerhouse Kent State by a tally of 80-71.

The Penguins appeared to be on pace to record their second consecutive win at Beeghly Center in the first half, where they led at the break, 31-23, led by junior guard Quin Humphrey, who had 13 points at the half.

The Penguins built on their eight-point halftime lead early in the second half, increasing the lead to 16 following a Keston Roberts tip-in. The lead would soon dissipate, however,

behind a flurry of Golden Flash baskets. The Flashes would take the lead at 6:22 in the second half behind an Omni Smith lay-up. The Penguins would never regain the lead.

Following the game, Penguins head coach Jerry Slocum said costly turnovers are what stole the game from the Penguins, who drop to 1-3 on the season.

"Obviously we didn't close the deal again," Slocum said referring to last week's loss to Akron. "Twenty two turnovers are what caused this loss."

The Penguins committed four more turnovers than the visiting Flashes, however, they had twelve in the second half compared to just five for Kent.

Slocum also said that his Penguins failed to finish on both sides of the court in the second half.

"Execution," Slocum said. "Offensively and defensively."

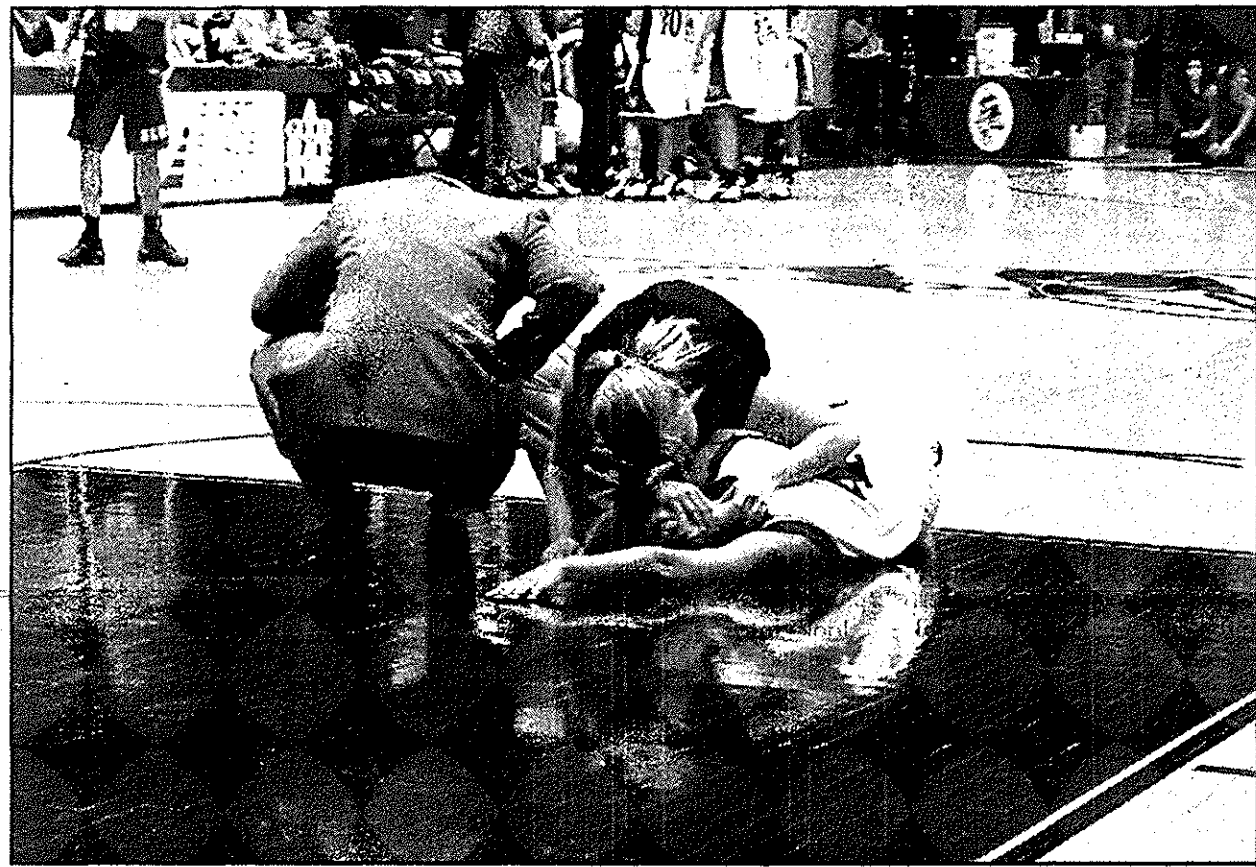
Humphrey, who scored a career-high 29 points behind 10-of-13 shooting on the night to go along with ten rebounds and three steals, said that he, along with the rest of the Penguins, need to finish games and learn to be finishers.

"We just tend to get relaxed," Humphrey said of what happens when his team earns leads. "We should have turned it up."

The relaxed play was evident by missed baskets and unforced turnovers. In the first half the Penguins shot 50 percent from the field on 12-of-24 from the floor, but struggled hitting just 13-of-30 in the second half.

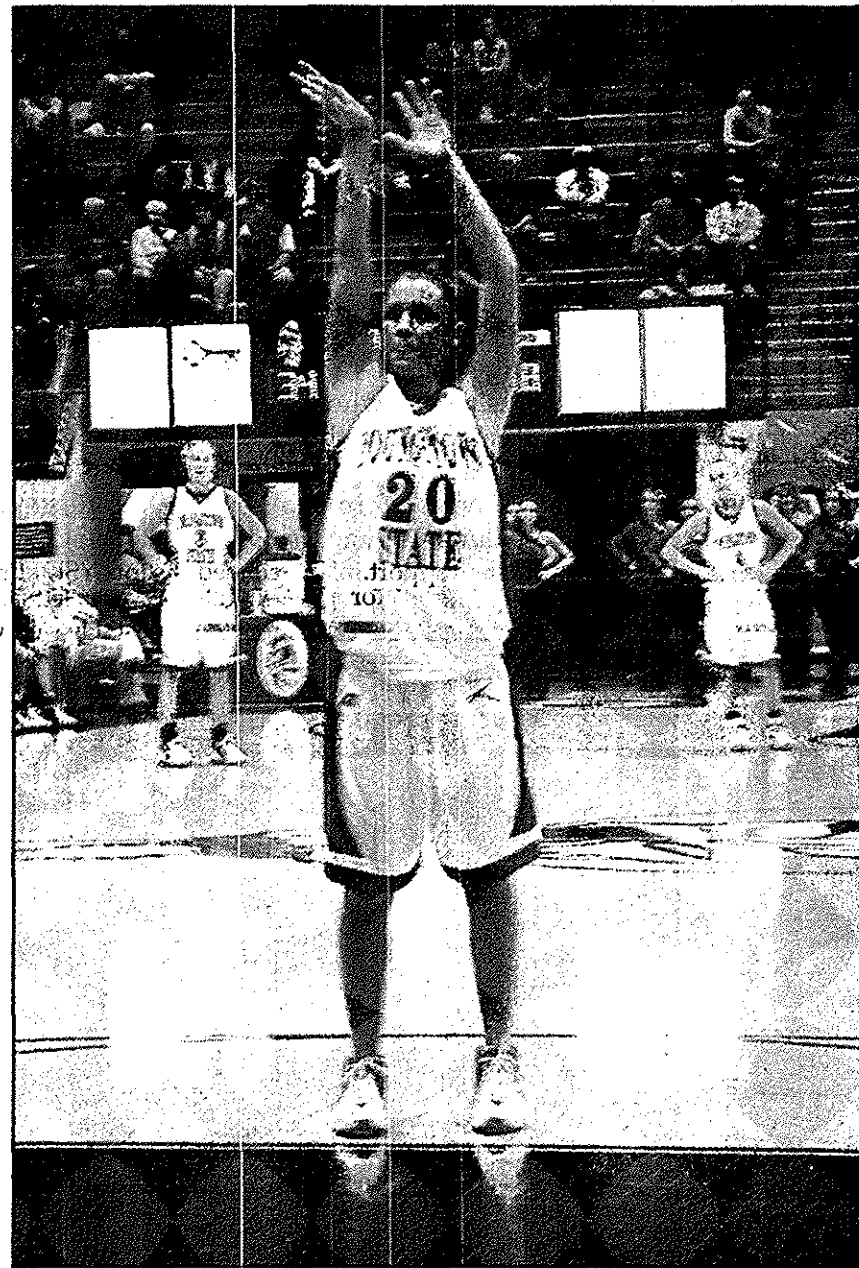


Jambar / Katie Libecco  
Senior guard Derrick Harris looks for an open teammate to pass the ball to during Wednesday night's game at Beeghly.



## Women win in second-half rally

**ABOVE:** Sophomore Lauren Branson is tended to after a collision sent her crashing to the floor. **RIGHT:** Junior guard Kristy Gaudiose attempts a free throw during action of Wednesday's game against St. Louis. The Penguins were paced by senior Michelle Holmes, who lead four Penguins in double figures with 16 points. After falling behind by ten points with just under 12 minutes to play, the Penguins stormed back at the Beeghly Center to win, 80-71.



YSU FOOTBALL

# No playoffs, but YSU grabs some hardware

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

The praise continues to roll in for the Youngstown State University football team, as awards accumulate inside Stambaugh Stadium. The Penguins, who finished the season at 8-3 and narrowly missed the playoffs, were awarded this week with Gateway Conference honors.

Fifth-year head coach Jon Heacock, who recently signed a contract extension, was named the Bruce Graddock coach of the year for the conference, spurred by his 5-2 conference record and the school's first Gateway title since joining in 1997. Heacock is also a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Division I-AA coach of the year award.

Newcomer of the year honors went to sophomore Marcus Mason. The Illinois transfer averaged 99.1 yards per game and 115.7 yards in seven conference games.

Mason was joined on the all-rookie team by defensive back Codera Jackson and defensive lineman Mychal Savage. Jackson led the conference in interceptions with six, while Savage started seven games for the Penguins.

Five Penguins also took top honors land-

ing All-Gateway First Team awards. The five first teamers for the Penguins are the most since 2001 when they also placed five on the all-conference roster.

Fullback Demetrius Ison, center Ryan Jewell, Jackson, defensive end Justin Scholes and linebacker James Terry all dotted the first team.

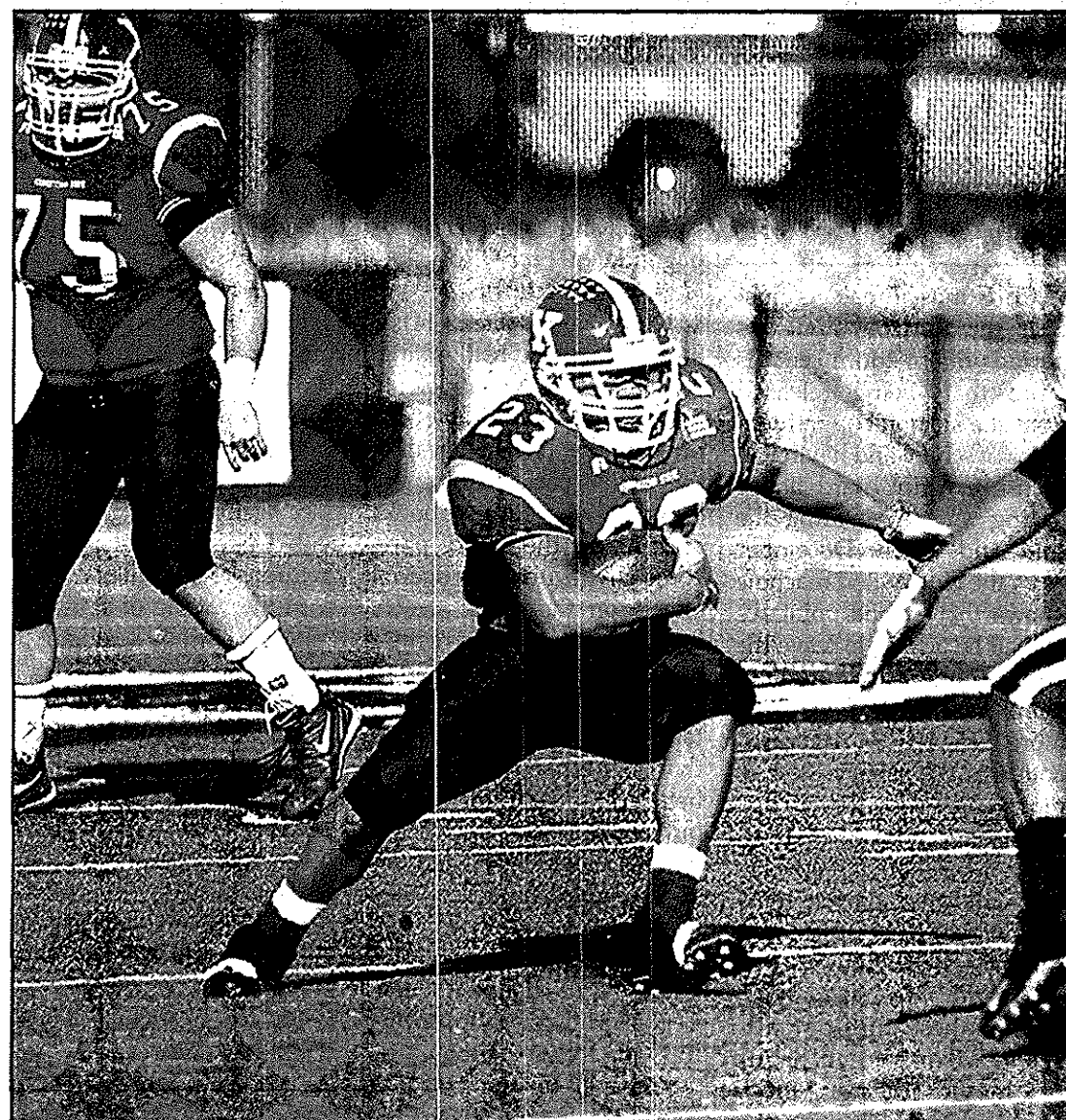
Mason, punter Joe Bishop, defensive end Brandon Brown and cornerback Jason Perry were all named second-team all-conference, while wide receiver Kyle Smith, tackle John Bartos and linebacker Mike Andrews all garnered honorable mention.

The Penguins landed 12 total onto the all-conference list, second behind fellow conference champ Southern Illinois, who placed 16.

Five Penguins were also rewarded for their efforts inside the classroom, earning First Team Academic All-Gateway. First-teamer quarterback Tom Zetts threw for 1,949 yards and 14 touchdown throws, and he completed 59 percent of his passes for the season.

Joining Zetts are long snapper Tanner Dunlap, receiver Jameson Evans, Jewell, and Scholes.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.



Jambar / Ron Stevens  
Penguin tailback Marcus Mason, shown in this file photo, was named the Gateway Conference's Newcomer of the year after running rampant through Gateway play.

SHOW PREVIEW

Jazzed up show to hit Ford

By: Katie Libecco  
 COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University's Jazz Ensemble will perform Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's rendition of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic "The Nutcracker" with the Ballet Western Reserve 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Ford Theater in Bliss Hall.

The show is a combination of holiday entertainment with the classic story of one girl's magical Christmas night with the performance songs that originated in "The Nutcracker" and some of the best works created by jazz-master Ellington.

"This is a fun, fun jazzy rendition of the 'The Nutcracker.' It's very holiday-ish. It's a blast," Anita Lin, the choreographer and Ballet Western Reserve artistic director, said. "It's ballet-based dance jazzed-up."

This is the second year



Special to The Jambar  
 Cast members of the jazzed-up "Nutcracker" who will be performing at Bliss Hall's Ford Theater are shown in this publicity photo.

the YSU Jazz Ensemble and the Ballet Western Reserve have teamed up to present the jazz "Nutcracker" at YSU.

The 17-piece YSU Jazz Ensemble will appear onstage during the show and will play seven pieces by Ellington from the Cotton Club-era.

New to the program this year is the participation of the Youngstown State University Dance Ensemble, who will perform two numbers in the first act.

The performances will include a tap solo by Erienne Raib'in "Rockin' in Rhythm." The song "Koko"

will feature Kristen Hungerford, Amanda Lewis, Melanie Catron, Ashley Workman, Amanda Staszak, Megan Cramer and Stephanie Jarvis. The dances are choreographed by Christine Cobb.

All of the music from the "Nutcracker" will be performed during the second act.

"This appeals to a huge spectrum. It's not boxed into a classical ballet," Lin said.

The Ballet Western Reserve's performance will feature swing dancing, tap dancing and a modern dance interpretation. There are 22 dancers in the show,

17 women and five men. Jane Hill will serve as the show's narrator.

"Little children and football dads can all understand the show. It's very light-hearted," Lin said.

The family-friendly production of the Jazz "Nutcracker" at Ford Theater in Bliss Hall is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are \$20 and \$10 for students. Reservations for the show can be made by calling the Ballet Western Reserve Box Office at (330) 744-1934 or purchased at the door the night of the show.

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

SHOW PREVIEW

Unique Jabali event to celebrate African culture

By: Cheryl Thompson  
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Jabali, Swahili for "The Rock," will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Chestnut Room in Kicawley Center. The event is being held to celebrate African culture.

Victor Wan-Tatah, the chair of the Africana Studies Department, is bringing the event back for the sixth time.

"Last year, approximately 150 people attended and we expect that many or perhaps even more will come this year," Wan-Tatah said. "It is our most anticipated event."

Wan-Tatah says the event offers a unique experience for any students or community members to be exposed to African culture.

"It's like going to Africa without going anywhere. With the music and the drumming, people get mesmerized, they want to participate in the celebration," Wan-Tatah said.

The event will feature dance performances from The Soul Dancers International of Cleveland. There will also be music, workshops and presentations by the African Student Union.

"The atmosphere will be infused with the soothing and exciting music from Africa," Wan-Tatah.

In addition to entertainment, there will be an address from keynote speaker, Dr. Virkijika Fanzo, a professor of history at the University of Yaounde in

Cameroon. His talk is expected to discuss the future of Africa in the new millennium, focusing on the economic and social situations of the continent.

Wan-Tatah is also a native of Cameroon and says he and Fanzo are from the same area, a town called Nso.

"I didn't know him from the university; we actually come from the same town. He gave me a call when he started working the United States," Wan-Tatah said.

"Fanzo is an expert Africanist, he is a Fulbright Scholar and taught in the United States on numerous occasions," Wan-Tatah said. "He is very knowledgeable."

To round out the evening, participants will be get a chance to sample various traditional African and African American dishes.

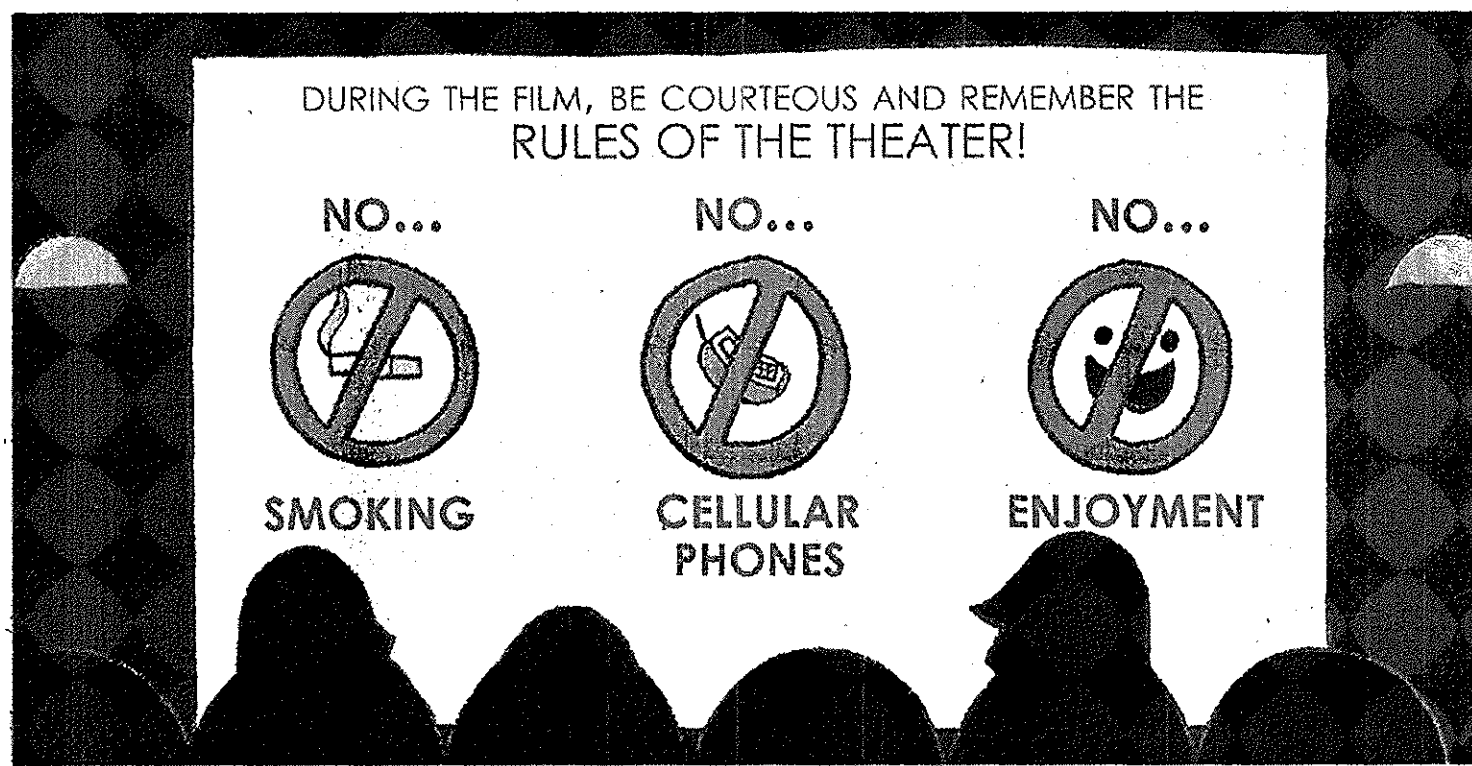
Menu items include: mixed field greens with three dressings; curried macaroni salad; crispy oven fried chicken; BBQ chicken; Jollof rice; collard greens with ham hocks; baked candied yams; Creole bread pudding with crême Anglaise and sweet potato pie with whipped cream.

Wan-Tatah said the food has gotten such good reviews in the past that he has not modified the menu at all.

"The food is a real treat and people always leave such good comments about it, that we are serving the same dishes as the first time," Wan-Tatah said.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

COMMENTARY



Your guide to the holiday movie season

By: Bob Mackey  
 COLUMNIST

Christmas Break is just over the horizon, and this period of freedom entails more than being released from the suction-cupped tentacles of school and having an excuse to drink hard liquor during the day. During the cold and lonely December days, the Hollywood machine knows that at one point we will all be aching to leave the house, either for entertainment or to avoid developing more bedsores. To accommodate this demand, a slew of movies are released every holiday season, most of them being heaps of garbage not even the most diseased racoon would feel compelled to rummage through.

Should you waste your time on these piles, and also spend \$20 on 39 cents' worth of movie theater food? Looking at the options, it should be clear that your safest bet this holiday season

is to stay far away from any cinema, and avoid the propaganda of Front Row Joe. Here are the culprits:

**King Kong (Dec. 14):** I know what you're thinking: "But it's Peeeter Jaaackson!" Yes, the once morbidly-obese director may have taken all of the fruity parts out of the "Lord of the Rings" books and made the good parts come alive with fancy special effects on the silver screen, but that still doesn't give me a reason to not be disappointed in him wasting his immense talents on a remake. I agree that it's probably going to be better than the 1976 version, but so would a bag of cat vomit. If you still have a fervent devotion to Jackson, put away your Elvin sword replicas (guaranteed to go up in value) and listen to me: Legolas will not be appearing in "King Kong." Probably.

**Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (Dec. 21):** If you missed the November release of "Yours, Mine, and Ours," take the

revolver out of your mouth, because there's a new movie about another family with nightmarishly large cabal of children that should give you hope for the future. Steve Martin stars in the sequel to the completely unnecessary 2003 film, trading in any credibility he might've had by once again sharing the screen with Disney Channel-manufactured robot Hillary Duff. With the casting of stars that appeal to various demographics, "Cheaper 2" looks like it'll be appealing to every member of the family, meaning that it will entertain no one. My hope is that "Cheaper 3" will involve some sort of post-apocalyptic "Thunderdome" scenario where the various children are forced to fight to the death for their parents' love and/or cash prizes.

**Fun with Dick and Jane (Dec. 21):** Remember when everyone thought Jim Carrey was a hoot? I was once fond of him, but then again I was 12 years old, and puberty can

do strange things to a boy's body. Jim Carrey, whose career should have ended with the cloyingly sappy "Liar, Liar," plays a white collar Schmoie -along with screen wife and David Duchovny ornament Tea Leoni- forced into a life of crime. Based on the trailer, it seems like a lot of the comedy in this movie is hinged upon puns on the name "Dick," so this may be the movie for you if you think that the "Focker" franchise is too intellectual.

**Hoodwinked (Dec. 23):** Mix the pandering pop-culture references of the "Shrek" franchise with the animation quality of the Dire Straits "Money for Nothing" video, and you get "Hoodwinked," an animated mess that will hopefully be forgotten by Jan. 1.

"Hoodwinked" is a fresh, contemporary take on the Little Red Riding Hood story; fresh in this case meaning trends from the

please see MOVIES, Page 4

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Static-X at The Cellar in Struthers with Ill Nino and Opiate for the Masses. Their nationwide tour brings the three groups to Struthers. All three of the heavier-rock groups bring a stellar, energetic stage show as well as excellent songwriting in one of the best national group lineups the area has scene in years.</li> <li>Youngstown SteelHounds play the Lubbock Cotton Kings at the Chevrolet Centre. The SteelHounds look to improve on their 6-7-1 record against the Cotton Kings. Game starts at 7:05 p.m.</li> <li>The Sadies at Cedars Lounge, 23 N. Hazel St. The Cedars Web site begins with the simple phrase "This show has the potential to be the best ever at Cedars." Mixing equal parts traditional country, surf music and garage rock. The Sadies are definitely a rarity in the current music scene. Local boys Bob's Country Bunker will open.</li> </ul>
Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simply Ed at Toey's Tavern, 958 E. Midlothian Blvd. Drink and sing karaoke.</li> <li>Between Home and Serenity at The Cellar with December Son, Ten Count Fall, The Flatliners, Johnie 3, and others. Straight from the 2005 Vans Warped Tour, BHAS is one the most talented acts to come out of Cleveland in a long time, while December Son are one of the better rock acts in Youngstown right now.</li> <li>The SteelHounds play the Lubbock Cotton Kings in the second game of their weekend series. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.</li> </ul>
Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" filmed last month in Boardman starting at 8 p.m. Watch WYTV's "Local Edition" starting at 7 p.m.</li> </ul>