

JAMBAR GRADUATION EDITION



Seniors tell the dos and don'ts of college experience

Erica Trekur
REPORTER

Some students may start their college careers with the idea that it will be easier than high school. Scheduling classes around work or selecting late-morning classes in order to sleep in are only two of college's many perks. But with misconceptions about education at a university level, newcomers might need advice. With commencement quickly approaching, some graduating Youngstown State University seniors have the opportunity to look back through the years and give important advice to underclassmen.

Senior Courtney Agnesi will graduate on May 16 with a degree in general studies.

"I wish someone would have told me how important it is to take advantage of every opportunity and service the university has to offer," Agnesi said.

Agnesi also said university involvement should be a priority, and offerings such as job fairs, student organizations and tutoring should all be taken advantage of by undergraduate students.

Senior telecommunications major Chris Russo said he wishes he received more advice before entering college. Russo said he needed "more advice about

professors and how they operate," and what is required in order to succeed.

On the contrary, senior Michael Minotti, a professional writing and editing major, said, "I think I got plenty of advice I probably ignored. You need to know what you want to do with your life."

Minotti said in his first two semesters of college, he went to three different schools, one of which he attended for two weeks. However, Minotti said he finally settled down and decided to get serious.

College can be overwhelming for new students; some are left unsure about themselves, and even their choice of major. The following list is comprised of do's and don'ts from graduating seniors.

Things to DO while in college:

- Perhaps most important is the realization that studying is not an option, but a requirement.

- Flashcards are really useful; they're the best way to learn several terms at once.

- Form relationships with your professors because they are there to help (but not if you don't want to help yourself).

- Now is the time to choose whatever career path you want to follow. It is most important to be passionate about what you're

choosing.

- Since you're paying for school, you're paying for your education. Make sure you receive your money's worth.

- Take advantage of your instructors' office hours; the one-on-one approach to learning cannot be beat.

- If you don't know the answer to a question or don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask.

Things NOT to do:
- Don't think that college is one big party. Going out can be fun and relaxing, but save the party for the weekend.

- The worst thing a student could possibly do is sleep in class.

- Don't be the class clown; college is a place to learn, and this isn't high school.

- Don't fall behind; once you do, it will be difficult to catch up.

- Don't forget to shut your phone off or put it on silent during class.

- Don't skip class. This is especially true when doing a group project.

- Don't regret your major and minor; if you feel like you made the wrong choice, find something you could do for the rest of your life.

- Don't ever forget that education is what you make of it. Professors are there to teach you the material, but it's your responsibility to learn.

Graduating after 31 years

Kaely Hawkins
REPORTER

On May 16, 1,149 undergraduate students will graduate from Youngstown State University in the class of 2009. Many students have been working hard for the past four or five years to reach this point. However, one student has been working to achieve her bachelor's degree for 31 years.

Tere Pinsky, 49, began her college career at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa., right out of high school.

"It was an all-girl school when I first attended, but now it is a co-ed school," Pinsky said.

Pinsky dropped out of college for a while to get married and start a family. For many years, she was a stay-at-home mom and raised her two sons. During that time, she joined AmeriCorps, which she described as a "good experience."

While involved in AmeriCorps, Pinsky worked with the Community Health Challenge in Butler, Pa. There, she worked with smoking cessation, tobacco reinforcement and people with diabetes.

"My supervisor was really good at finding what talents people had and bringing them out. He helped me gain a lot of confidence in myself," Pinsky said. She also said that during her time with the program, she enjoyed writing.

Because of her work with AmeriCorps, Pinsky earned about \$110,000 in education rewards; this helped a lot when she decided to go back to school.

Soon afterward, Pinsky attended Penn State University and took all online courses.

"The quality of the education was really good. I had to work really hard," Pinsky said. She received an associate's degree in the Letters, Arts

and Sciences in the summer of 2007.

In the spring of 2008, Pinsky began attending YSU.

"On my first day of classes, I felt intimidated because I knew I was going to be seeing things a lot different from everyone else," Pinsky said.

Transfer credits were a big issue for Pinsky. "I was really mad that I had to take survey of math again. At Penn State, I took statistics of math, but the math department would not accept the transfer credit," Pinsky said. "It's keeping a lot of transfer students out because credits won't transfer."

Fortunately for Pinsky, many professors were willing to work with her on her credit situation so she would not have to repeat many classes over again. Pinsky also said her age is also a challenge.

"I don't have as much energy now; I can't pull the all-nighters," Pinsky said.

Pinsky also said she has a different perspective on life.

"Because I'm older, even older than some of the professors, I tend to challenge some of the things they're saying more than the younger students," Pinsky said.

Even as a commuter, Pinsky has managed to get involved on campus and in the Youngstown community. She is involved with the YSU Dance Club and enjoys ballroom dancing. Pinsky also teaches during the summer at the Mount Carmel summer camp.

Although Pinsky is set to graduate this May with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, she plans to continue her education at YSU. She has been accepted into the graduate program and will study English.

"I feel there's more I can do with an English degree," Pinsky said.

Pinsky plans to intern in Italy in 2010 or 2011; she will teach English as a second language.

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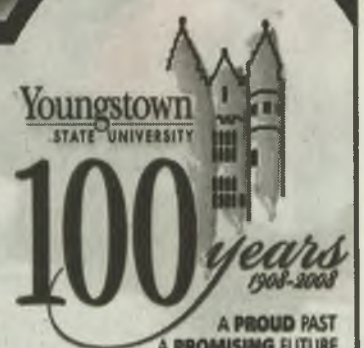
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Students give graduates advice on job hunting

Laura DeChant
REPORTER

Whether it was their field of study or the experience they have gained over the years, Rachel Mincher, Jonathan Dudd and Brad Turnbull will all be diving straight into full-time jobs right after their May 16 graduation from Youngstown State University.

Dudd, civil engineering major, got a full-time job with the Ohio Department of Transportation by interning with the department for two years. He was able to get the internship through the Williamson College of Business Administration's interview day.

"I was looking for an internship and I wanted one with ODOT. I only had one interview set up that day. I was set up for the interview pretty well through the resume building workshop I went to," Dudd said, adding that since a demand for civil engineers exists, he wasn't too worried about finding a job after graduation.

While Dudd said he knows a few people who are still looking for jobs, all of his friends who participated in-

ternships were able to obtain jobs.

"Do the interview day," Dudd said. "The job experience definitely helps when you're looking for a full-time job."

Rachel Mincher, another civil engineering major, also said civil engineering jobs are in high demand. Additionally, she said her gender has helped her rather than hindered her, in the engineering field. There is a lack of women in the engineering field, and companies benefit from hiring women. Mincher landed her job at Union Metal Corporation also by completing an internship.

Although Mincher's job at Union Metal Corporation involves slightly different work than she plans on doing for the remainder of her career, she said she feels fortunate to gain the job experience.

"A lot of fields overlap. You can be flexible in what you do because your job will teach you new things. Starting out, any kind of experience is good," Mincher said. Mincher advises students looking for jobs to be receptive to all opportunities.

"Just look at every single company. Be relentless when you're looking

because you have nothing to lose. Be confident; don't be intimidated by your lack of job experience. People are understanding when you're first starting out," Mincher said.

Brad Turnbull, who will be specializing in coronary intensive care at the Cleveland Clinic, knew he liked medicine, but did not want to be a doctor. Instead, he went into the nursing field.

"Nursing is a secure job, especially for me, since there are not a lot of males that go into nursing. I wasn't nervous about finding a job, but I was nervous about being able to get into intensive care," Turnbull said.

Turnbull also attributed his post-graduation job to preparation.

"Definitely start fixing a resume ahead of time," Turnbull said. "If you are in nursing, go to open houses at hospitals whenever you can. Don't think that something will just be magically waiting for you."

Turnbull said Career and Counseling Services helped him, especially with his resume.

"If you don't know what a resume is supposed to look like, then you really don't know what to put on it. They really help you out," Turnbull said.

Leigh Ann Waring, a YSU Career and Counseling Services coordinator, said there are many campus resources to help students find jobs. Interview day, sponsored by WCBA and the Professional Practice Program, gives students the chance to obtain an internship or co-op position. Additionally, career fairs are held once every semester, workshops on resume building are offered and students can practice their interview skills in a mock interview.

"In this market we encourage students to utilize every resource they can," Waring said. "Start early — the biggest mistake students make is that they start looking for a job after they graduate."

Waring said the job market is competitive. It is important for students to be proactive during their job search.

"Don't just post your resume on Monster. Develop a network. The number one way employers hire is through networking and students underutilize it," Waring said, adding that students also need to have a definite career goal in mind.

"If students don't know what they're looking for, finding a job can become a very frustrating process," she said.

Commencement student speakers have diverse backgrounds

Tyler Landis
REPORTER

After their college graduation, a fresh wave of ambitious students will soon turn countless late nights of cramming and studying into full-fledged jobs and careers. It's important to trace the path that students have taken before eventually reaching graduation. Three speakers at Youngstown State University's spring 2009 graduation come from different backgrounds, but they all achieved many goals in their college years, and will strive to succeed further after graduation.

Molly Ceci is one of 10 children in an Italian-Irish family. Raised in Austintown, Ceci graduated as class president from Austintown Fitch high school. In 2005, Ceci received her bachelor of science in education from YSU. Ceci taught at the Youngstown Academy of Excellence for three years; she taught kindergarten and third grade, and was the curriculum instruction specialist in her last year there.

After her college graduation, Ceci plans on marrying a Warren G. Harding high school history teacher. Ceci also said she wants to continue teaching in the Howland school district; she would also like to coach speech and debate again. Ceci's proudest college achievement was her state champion award in speech and debate for duo interpretation.

Jennifer Houston is also from Austintown. At YSU, she double-majored in art history and art education. For two

years, Houston worked at the YSU Bookstore, where she was also a student supervisor. Houston also held several positions within the art department; she worked as a student secretary in the art office, and was a studio assistant for Chris McCullough.

"Working at the YSU Bookstore and the art department were great experiences because the other students, professors and staff became like second families for me," Houston said.

After graduation, Houston plans to teach art. However, she also wants to obtain a master's degree in art education or art history, or even a doctorate. Houston's proudest college achievement is her designation as a university scholar. Houston said because of this, she has met many interesting people from around the world.

Hannah Vinsel was born in Joliet, Ill., a town she described as very much like Youngstown. She lived there until the fourth grade when her family moved to Elwood, Ill., a small farming community. In high school, Vinsel was a waitress and a nursery attendant in her community church.

In 2005, Vinsel moved to Youngstown with her uncle and two cousins to attend YSU. Vinsel majored in early childhood education and worked for three years in the provost's office. Vinsel's involvements range from being a member of the Dean's Dozen to being part of Kappa Delta Pi. After her graduation from YSU, Vinsel wants to find a local elementary school teaching job; she will also apply to graduate school at YSU.

Graduating seniors have mixed emotions about next step

Samantha Cavalier
REPORTER

While the economy is in a recession and unemployment rates continue to increase, some Youngstown State University seniors are nervous about graduating from college and are apprehensive about what their futures may hold. These fears are based on many factors ranging from financial issues to actual available employment opportunities.

According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 65 percent of four-year undergraduate students take out student loans to help pay for college tuition and fees. These loans have to be paid back after graduation. This additional responsibility gives graduates a fear of the inability to pay back their student loans.

Senior Nicole Smith is one of these reluctant seniors.

"I'm afraid of being unemployed and having to pay off student loans after graduation," Smith said.

Lisa Ferrando said she feels similarly, yet sees a slight upside to all the stress dealing with graduation.

"It's kind of scary because you're going into something new. You had 12 years of school between kindergarten and high school, [then] four more years of college and you're think-

ing about grad school, which is so different, and trying to get a job. It's stressful," Ferrando said. "But at the same time, I'm really excited. I'm looking forward to doing something different because school is just getting old after so many years."

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' "Job Outlook 2009 Spring Update," employers are planning to hire 22 percent fewer graduates from the college class of 2009 than they previously hired from the graduate class of last year.

Other students are deciding not to go straight into the workforce, but to take different directions after graduation. These choices are being made to help better students' chances for future careers in their selected career fields.

Senior Eric Price is going to graduate school after graduation instead of immediately looking for employment.

"I'm going into the master's program," Price said. "If I were looking for a job right after graduation, I know that in this day and age trying to get a job is very difficult."

Although some college seniors are nervous about graduating, there are some who can't wait to grab their diploma. Senior Mary Korda is one of them.

"I'm not scared to graduate at all. I'm looking forward to it. Whether I find a job quickly enough is another story, but being done with college is exciting," Korda said.

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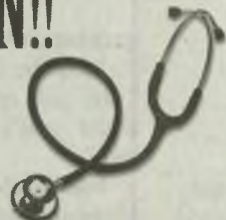
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I would also like to send a special thank you to Dr. Reday who has mentored me all 4 years of my college career. Dr. Reday, you made me believe in myself that I could do anything. "Why not try to go big" you would say. Well, now I believe I can. Thank you for always being available to talk, and mentor me. You have showed me that we must keep going forward. You have no idea how much of an impact you have had on my life.

To all the faculty with in the WCBA thank you for all your hard work and dedication to providing the 2009 graduates of the WCBA the tools necessary to succeed. I am truly honored to become a YSU alumni.

One last thank you, I would like to thank the members of the American Marketing Association for all of their hard work and dedication to the YSU Chapter. All of you have what it takes to make next year amazing. Believe in yourself and believe that it only takes one to make a difference. I loved being a part of the AMA and I loved being able to share that love with all of you. Good luck, and best Wishes!! I love you guys!

Thank you,

Amber Gallagher

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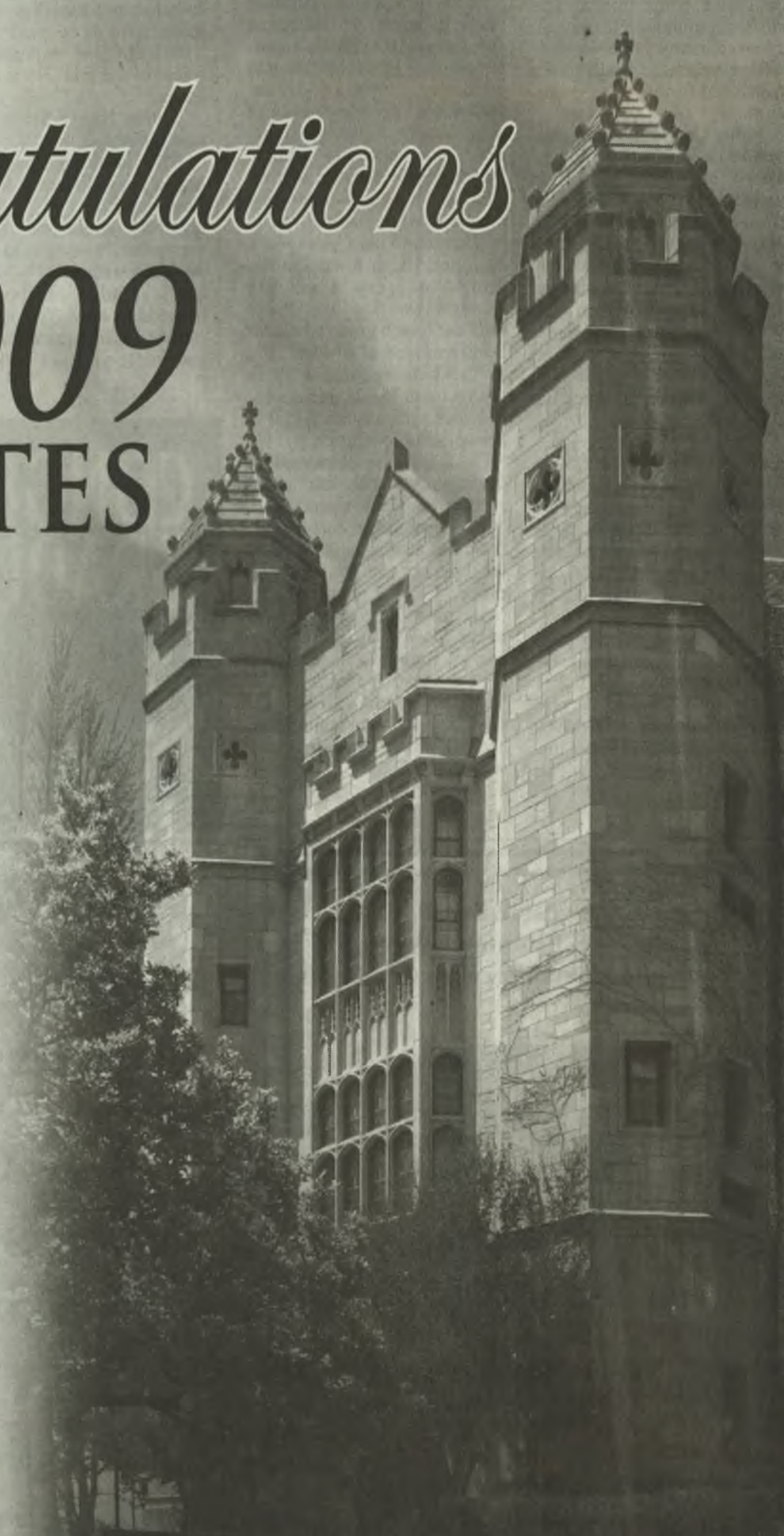
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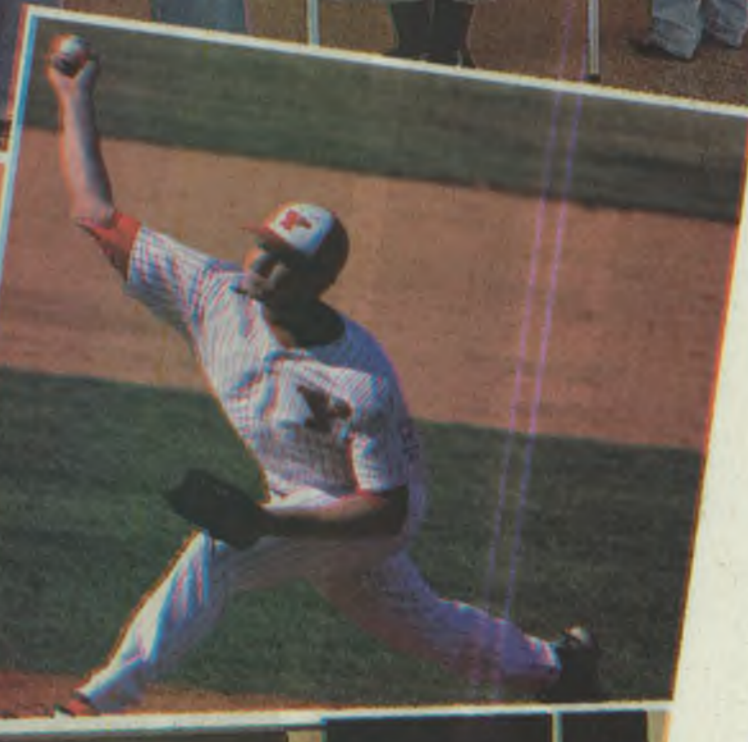
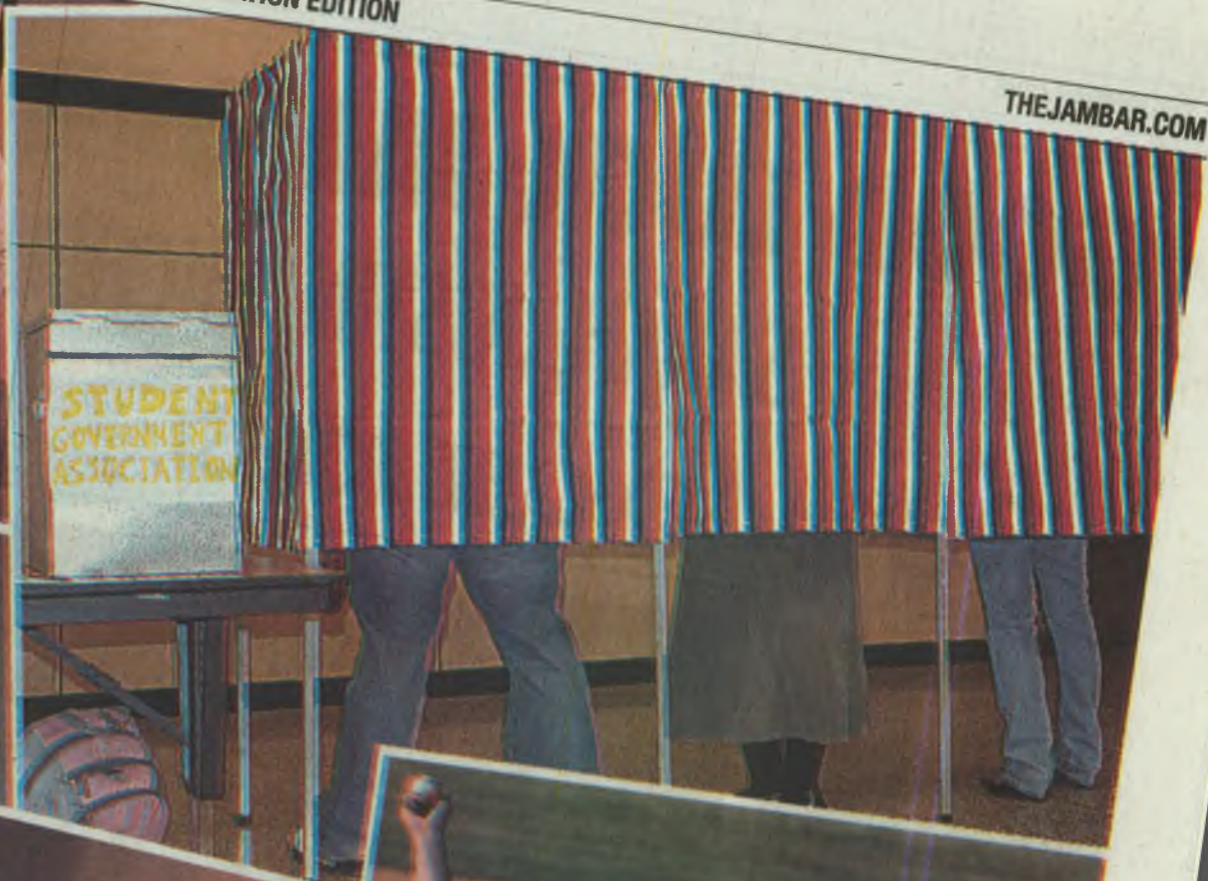


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