



Student barking low with DogEars

By MAYSOON ABDELASU
The Jambar

Nearly a year after its addition to the Youngstown State University Student Government Association's Web site, DogEars.net is not getting students' attention.

DogEars.net, a Web site begun by Columbia University students, was localized by SGA last March as a way for students to trade textbooks, learn about professors and keep up to date on campus events. However, there are few students making use of the Web site, SGA President Emily Eckman said.



ECKMAN

Eckman, who proposed localizing the Web site last year, said she believes student apathy is one reason many people are unaware of or do not use the site. As of last month, there were 100 people registered on the Web site, she said.

Eckman said that SGA did their best in promoting DogEars.net by posting fliers on campus.

Despite low usage, Eckman "feels good" about the Web site and plans to continue promoting it.

"If five people join, I feel I accomplished something," she said.

One way Eckman hoped students would learn of the Web site was by tying it to their CUE-mail accounts. However, Eckman said that the number of students using their CUE-mail accounts remains low.

Junior Jenna Duck said she uses her CUE-mail everyday but never knew about the Web site. She said she never saw any of the fliers but might check it out when she is close to registering for classes.

Some students on campus said now that they know about the site, they will use it.

Junior Erin Schwartz had never heard of it either, but said she likes the idea of learning about the teachers before taking their class. However, the possibility of cheaper textbooks interested Schwartz the most.

"Every college student needs to use their money to the maximum," Schwartz said.

Sophomore Chris Wilfong said he might have heard about the Web site but never looked into it.

"I may use it, but the teacher evaluation may not have an effect, because if I need the class I am going to

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Taft to sign against gay marriages

By ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

The approval of a bill challenging gay marriage and domestic partnerships has administrators and faculty speculating what will happen in next year's faculty contract

negotiations. Ohio House Bill 272, which bans gay marriages and foregoes an extension of domestic partner benefits, was approved in the Ohio House Tuesday. Governor Bob Taft's spokesman Orest Holubec said Taft would sign on the bill



TAFT

within the week. "We are re-enforcing that the state does recognize marriage as the union between a man and a woman," Holubec

said. "We are re-enforcing state law."

President of YSU Ohio Education Association Michael Finney said the bill has already aroused faculty interest over the possible outcome of contract negotiations next year, and many are already dis-

cussing its impact on faculty contracts.

Under the bill, private companies and local governments are allowed to offer domestic partner benefits. Benefits can also be offered to

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Watchin' Washin'

Do you wash your hands after using the restroom? If you're like most YSU students, you don't.

By GERARD GRIMM
The Jambar

The biological war is being fought at Youngstown State University, but it is not the result of a terrorist attack.

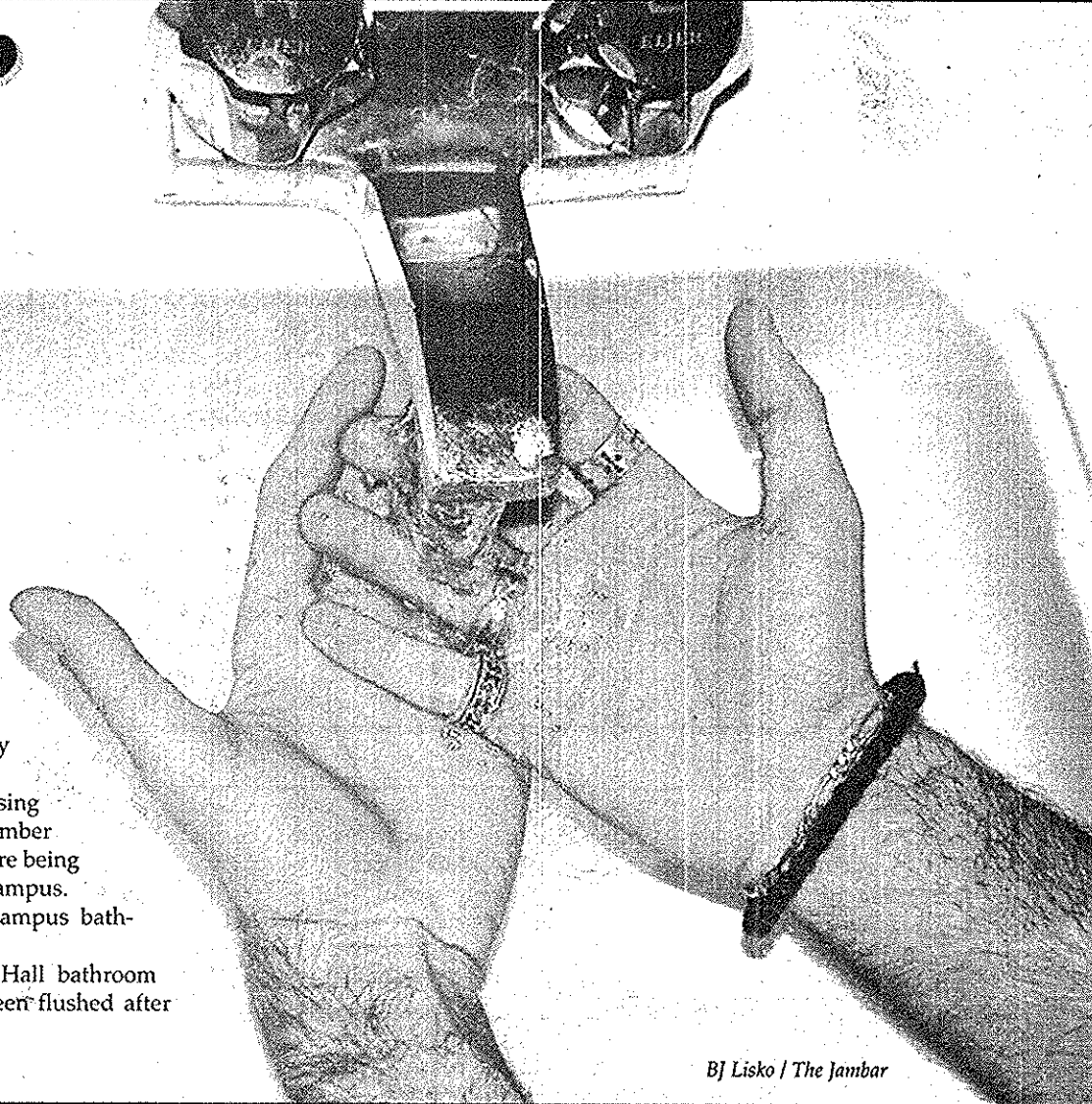
YSU's Student Health Clinic is reporting that this winter the number of patients they are receiving is "way over what it used to be."

Mahoning County Board of Health Director of Nursing Diana Colaianni said one of the main reasons for the number of illnesses are already weakened immune systems that are being further attacked by a possible lack of hand washing on campus.

Observation of hand washing practices in some campus bathrooms provided disconcerting numbers.

Nine of the 16 women observed in a DeBartolo Hall bathroom washed their hands thoroughly. Only seven of the sixteen flushed after using the facilities.

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BJ Lisko / The Jambar

Campus reacts to halftime spectacle

By MICHAEL J. BALALE
The Jambar

When Janet Jackson exposed her breast to 89 million television viewers during last weekend's Super Bowl game, one Youngstown State University professor said she was appalled and used the incident to further her beliefs that today's pop stars rely on sex far too much.

L.J. Tessier, professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, said Jackson's stunt should not have come as a surprise. "When you book MTV for a halftime show, you're going to get what they think is appropriate or in style," Tessier said. "The best dancers in our culture are considered the best because they imitate sex."

Others on campus had strong reactions to what may be the first time a woman's breast was shown on live primetime television.

During the halftime show of Sunday's Super Bowl, Janet — the woman MTV named "an American icon" — ended the festivities by showing her bare breast on network television.

Since the incident, Jackson has apologized, sending a pre-recorded apology to many television stations.

"My decision to change the Super Bowl performance was actually made after the final rehearsal," Jackson said. "Unfortunately the whole thing went wrong in the end."

Although a spokeswoman for Jackson told CNN that a red lace garment was supposed to remain when Justin Timberlake tore the outer shell of her dress, many still speculate if the incident was premeditated.

Some YSU students have a hard time believing that Jackson had not planned it well before she took center stage.

"I think it was all planned by Janet Jackson because she hasn't had a hit song for years," sophomore Stacie Lemke said. "It wasn't a big deal but I think she did it for publicity."

Whether coincidence or irony, Jackson's antics occurred just after the word "naked" was uttered in a song, which led many critics, including MTV Networks Chairman Tom



KRTCampus.com

NAKED: Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson perform during halftime of the Super Bowl.

See SPECTACLE, page 6

Branches of public library trimmed

By CHRISTINA POE
The Jambar

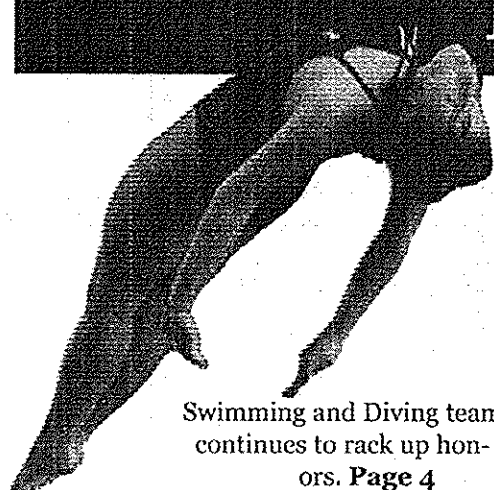
Downsizing of the Youngstown Public Library System has some critics worried.

On Jan. 29, the library's board of trustees received recommendations from information collected by Himmel and Wilson library consultants to reduce the number of branches from 19 to 13 or 14. According to the library's Web site, plans for the North Branch Library include transferring the children's collection from its Fifth Avenue site to the main library's location on Wick Avenue.

Although library officials said the change would benefit Youngstown's elderly and increase hours for the public,

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Inside today's issue:



Swimming and Diving team continues to rack up honors. Page 4

thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice Of Youngstown State University

Do you wash your hands after you use the bathroom?
Vote @ www.thejambar.com

Incubus return with new CD.
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state employees covered under collective bargaining.

Finney added that although the passing of the bill has dealt a blow to gay rights and domestic partnerships in Ohio, he feels it will lead to an "increased effort in getting domestic partner benefits."

"In a legal sense, it won't affect us at all," Finney said.

Special Assistant to the President Thomas Maraffa said the bill has no impact on the current contract. Though the current contract does not include domestic partner benefits, it does include a family sick leave article allowing employees to take leave to care for their domestic partner.

As far as next year's negotiations go, Maraffa said it is too soon to say.

Finney said that the ultimate decision rests on the board of trustees.

YSU Trustee Joseph Nohra said he is unsure of the bill's effect on contract negotiations, but finds extension of domestic partner benefits "morally objectionable."

"I believe this bill is protecting the sanctity of marriage as we know it, a man and a woman legally married," Nohra said.

In the upcoming year, Taft will make three appointments to the YSU Board of Trustees. Holubec said the appoint-

ments would be individuals who share the same philosophy as Taft.

"This is not a litmus test; he has appointed Democrats and Independents before, but an all Republican board is not unusual," Holubec said.

Finney said the appointments could cause further difficulties in possibly including domestic partner benefits in the contract.

"I don't foresee a lot of liberal Democrats being appointed," Finney said. "I suppose what we need him to do is appoint a gay Republican."

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.

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Sciences Denise Walters Dobson and others voiced concerns about possible adverse effects on the neighborhood.

Dobson said removing children's programs from the north side branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County would eliminate a "neighborhood safe place" for area children.

The short distance to the library from their homes gave children as young as five a safe walk, and now these children would have a more difficult time reaching the main branch location, Dobson said.

"These juveniles aren't people who can walk safely to that facility," Dobson said.

Dobson also said this helps parents without transportation to provide their children with a place to keep them active and off the streets.

Communications and Public Relations Director for the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County Janet Loew said vari-

ables such as local children were taken into consideration when recommendations were being made for various branches.

However, Loew said the north side and main branches are less than a mile and a quarter apart, and should not cause any problems for community access.

"The proximity is so close that people either use both or just go to the main branch," Loew said.

Loew said recommendations for changing the north side branch included continuing using the location as a base for the library's Special Outgoing Services program to serve senior citizens based in from nursing homes and other housing facilities.

Carlton A. Sears, director of the Public Library for Youngstown and Mahoning County, said the main branch would continue to offer children's programs, currently being held at the north side

branch.

Sears also said changes would provide area residents with better collections and longer hours in which to access them.

Sears also said a decline in utilization of the north side branch affected plans outlined in recommendations.

Gary Salvner, professor and chair in the English department, said he hasn't noticed a decrease in the branch's usage.

Salvner said while he was pleased that the children's collection many students use will remain in tact, he said he had sympathy for a loss of a facility where neighborhood residents came together.

"It has served them as a wonderful community center," Salvner said. "I'll hate to see it go."

Call Christina Poe at (330) 941-3523.

HANDS, continued from page 1

Of the 13 men observed in a Kilcawley Center bathroom, only five took the time to wash their hands. Four of the five rushed the procedure.

Director of Health Promotion and Assessment at the Mahoning County Board of Health Jane Warga said even those checking their hair or blowing their nose in the bathroom are not immune from possible spread of infectious viruses. Warga said any contact with a high trafficked object in the restroom could lead to the spread of infection.

Hand washing is the "best way to break the chain of public infection," Warga said.

Medical Director of the Mahoning County Board of Health Dr. Larry Frisch said influenza, colds and other commonly spread respiratory infections are some of the most dangerous to contract.

Other possible illnesses include salmonella, hepatitis A and gastrointestinal diseases.

"There is just as much a chance of spreading a disease or being a carrier as there is contracting it," Frisch said.

Frisch provided a scenario in which Person A does not wash their hands properly after using the facilities and touches the doorknob on the way out. Person B then enters the

bathroom, whether to use the facilities or not, and touches the same doorknob without washing their hands.

Person B then touches their mouth or food that they or others are going to eat. Through this chain of events, Person A has now possibly spread a gastrointestinal disease to Person B or others.

Frisch also added that contracting sexually transmitted diseases in the restroom is possible, though not likely.

"Herpes and other STD's don't live very long airborne," Frisch said. Many people fear that contact with a contaminated toilet seat or

other parts that touch the skin can infect the person, Frisch said. He added that the skin is tough enough to withstand a certain amount of infection from the toilet seat, but touching contaminated hands to parts of the body heightens the risk.

"The main point is often missed that these diseases, in a bathroom setting, need the hands to transmit the disease," Frisch said.

Frisch said that most of us do not follow the recommended practice for hand washing and provides these simple instructions.

"Using lots of soap and warm water, rub the hands together thor-

oughly," Frisch said.

Frisch said the most important part after washing hands is using the paper towel to dry hands, turn off the tap and then use it to open the door. The extra step of using the paper towel cuts down on the recontamination by infectious germs that had just been washed off.

"It's ridiculous to think that slapping a little bit of soap and quickly rinsing the hands is going to prevent anything," Frisch said.

Call Gerard Grimm at (330) 941-1913.

News in brief

Scholars to create sexy calendar

The University Scholars is creating an academic calendar that will include the sexiest students at YSU.

The calendar is a fundraiser for the Scholars open to all students who think they are the sexiest on campus.

Students can sign up the week of Feb. 16 at tables located across from Home Savings and Loan in Kilcawley Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Students can drop off their own pictures or have their picture taken. The University Scholar Trustees will select the 12 sexiest men and the 12 sexiest women from the photos.

There will be two calendars, one for the men and one for the women.

If students have any questions, they can contact the University Scholars and Honors office at 941-2772.

YSU earns improved credit rating

Increased enrollment and a low debt to assets ratio have earned YSU a better credit rating from Moody's Investors Services. The improvement allows YSU to lend money at reduced interest rates and lower its total financial expenditures.

YSU has issued \$14.4 million in bonds primarily to help pay the costs of building residence halls according to a statement from the YSU news and information services. The resell value of these bonds increases in proportion to the ratings changes. This rewards people who have taken a risk to help the university.

The YSU Foundation, an entity separate from the university but dedicated to its financial support, holds nearly \$126 million in endowments and other assets to cover university debt and expenditures. The strength of this foundation improves the university's financial status and makes it a stronger investment for bond buyers according to Terry Ondreyka, YSU vice president for student affairs.

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take it, regardless of who teaches it," Wilfong said.

Senior Kristen Funelli said she would read the evaluations and that would play a part in what teachers she chooses.

"If I could read how other students felt about professors, it would be helpful," Funelli said.

Call Maysoon Abdelrasul at (330) 941-1913.



2004 YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY'S African American HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Proverb of the Month: "IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE BEGINNING WELL, THE END WILL NOT TROUBLE YOU." -Ashanti Proverb

<p>Tuesday, February 3 Lecture - Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu "Black Men and Women: We Both Need Each Other" 7:00p.m. Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center Dr. Kunjufu is a renowned educator and educational consultant. Internationally recognized for his efforts to develop positive self-image in African American children, he is the co-author of SEICLAE (Self-Esteem Through Culture Leads to Academic Excellence), an Afrocentric/multicultural curriculum. He is the author of several books including: <i>Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys and To Be Popular or Smart: The Black Peer Group</i>.</p> <p>Saturday, February 7 The African Marketplace Noon - 6:00p.m. Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center The African Marketplace is one of the most popular events marking African American History Month. It draws a rich variety of vendors, artists, and book dealers specializing in African and African American creations from Ohio and neighboring states.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 11 Lecture - Bari-Ellen Roberts "When You Know You're Right" 7:00p.m. Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center Hailed as a "modern-day Rosa Parks" and one of the most courageous African Americans of our time, she led 1,400 African American employees of Tesco to the largest racial discrimination settlement in United States history. Her story is told in her book, <i>Roberts versus Tesco: The True Story of Race in Corporate America</i>.</p> <p>February 6 through February 14 Musical - "Raisin" Youngstown Playhouse "Raisin" - the musical adaptation of the classic "Raisin in the Sun," by Lorraine Hansberry, portrays life from the living room setting to the streets of Chicago in the early 1950s. Tickets can be purchased from the Playhouse box office. Co-sponsored by the Youngstown Playhouse and General Motors, Lordstown (Box Office: 330-788-8739)</p>	<p>Saturday, February 14 Dance - Bi-Okoto Dance Group from Cincinnati Workshop at 12:00 Noon - 2:00p.m. Performance at 7:00p.m. Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center The Bi-Okoto Dance and Dance Theater is a professional cultural arts company devoted to the cultivation and refinement of African art and education. Bi-Okoto boasts an eclectic repertoire of authentic traditional Nigerian and other West African dances, dramas, and operas.</p> <p>Tuesday, February 17 Movie Night - "Liberia: America's Step Child," Documentary by Nancee Oku Bright 7:00p.m. Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center Founded by free blacks and freed American slaves in 1821, Liberia was once the hope and pride of black Africa. Although political and economic power was wielded by Americanized Africans, the two groups forged a tight and sensitive existence which tilted out of balance in a civil war of the 1990s. That conflict continued until recently, when a truce was reached and the former head of state, Charles Taylor, went into exile in Nigeria. Liberian filmmaker Nancee Oku Bright traces the relationship between America and Liberia and analyzes the causes of strife between Liberia's indigenous population and freed American slaves.</p> <p>Thursday, February 19 Diversity Workshop - Diversity Issues in the 21st Century: Diversity Workshop for Employers and Employees 9:00-12:00p.m. Presidents Suite, Kilcawley Center The workshop will address pertinent issues in the workplace involving leadership and knowledge, and the extent to which they affect company culture, productivity, and competitiveness. The workshop will cover a wide range of topics including flexible, same-sex partners, innovative compensation and benefit programs. Continuing credit hours are available to professionals. Co-sponsors include the Mahoning Bar Association, Williamson College of Business Administration, the Addiction Program of Kiewit of Geary, Early Childhood Support Group, Community Grants Association, Mahoning County Chartered Dependency Program, The Hall Kennedy Recovery Clinic, and the Youngstown Urban Ministry Outreach and Drug Clinic Outreach Program.</p>	<p>Saturday, February 21 Poetry Slam Competition 6:30p.m. Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center Original poetry submissions by budding local poets on different aspects of African American life and culture. Prizes will be awarded based on the style, content, and quality of presentation. Submissions must reach the African Studies Program by Wednesday, February 18.</p> <p>Monday, February 23 Musical Presentation: Yewande 7:00p.m. Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center Yewande is an alternative soul singer-songwriter whose music captures the essence of the human experience. Classically trained in voice and piano, Yewande has thrilled audiences across the country, including those at the JFK Center for the Performing Arts, Black Entertainment Tonight (BET), and London's Jazz Cafe and Black Lily. Co-sponsored by the Office of Student Activities.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 25 Lecture - Dorian T. Warren "Multiple Identities and Organizational Change in the U.S. Labor Movement" 7:00p.m. Presidents Suite, Kilcawley Center Dorian T. Warren is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Yale University and an Erskine Peters Fellow in African-American Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His research combines theoretical, historical, and empirical approaches to the study of marginal groups within American politics, focusing on the political organization and mobilization of groups based on class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. Co-sponsored by the Center for Working Class Studies.</p> <p>Friday, February 27 Lecture - Dr. Ron Daniels "The Case for Reparations: Does America Owe Africans in America?" 7:00p.m. McKay Auditorium, Beeghly Hall A native of Youngstown, Dr. Daniels is the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York. He is a prominent civil rights activist who has championed numerous causes and writes weekly columns for newspapers and journals. He was a strong advocate of the desegregation movement in apartheid South Africa, and recently led an historic trip to Haiti.</p>
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African American History Month is co-sponsored by

YSU Youngstown State University

For further information, call the African Studies Program or (330) 941-3097.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

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Today's Editorial

Bill is dangerous to gays, state

This week, Gov. Bob Taft is expected to sign Ohio House Bill 272 that bans gay marriages and challenges domestic partner benefits.

Although the bill will not directly affect Youngstown State University — private companies and local governments are allowed to offer domestic partner benefits to state employees covered under collective bargaining — it could raise questions in the coming YSU faculty negotiations.

Two summers ago, the YSU-Ohio Education Association argued and fought for domestic partner benefits. Its battle was lost and some faculty fear defeat again.

There is one major problem with the bill: What does it actually mean? It bans gay marriages, which under state law have already been illegal, and further erodes the fight for domestic partner benefits.

We do not understand the mission of the bill. What we do understand, however, is that Taft's mission — to attack any form of gay rights — is dangerous.

In light of three new appointments to the YSU Board of Trustees in the upcoming year, Tuesday's editorial asked Taft to appoint someone not because of party loyalty, but for skills in representing the YSU student body.

In the coming contract negotiations, trustees will make the final decision on including domestic partner benefits. But even with current Trustee Chair Joseph Nohra — domestic partners' largest challenger — retiring from the board this year, three new trustees could prevent domestic partner benefits from again being added in contracts.

YSU-OEA President Michael Finney said he does not foresee Taft appointing any liberal Democrats to the board.

"I suppose what we need him to do is appoint a gay Republican," Finney said.

We wish Taft would head Finney's advice. An openly gay Republican would do more for the university community than the many homophobic trustees who seem determined to allow their religious beliefs to interfere with what is simply just.

Taft's spokesman Orest Holubec said that an all-Republican board would not be unusual. It is not Republicans that we fear, but the ideas of individuals who share Taft's archaic notions about society.

Letter to the Editor

Opinions are ignorant to U.S. Constitution

Editor:

In response to the recent letters to the editor concerning same-sex marriages, it surprises me how ignorant people are to the rights in the Constitution about separation of church and state. The government cannot, under any circumstance, be influenced simply by the beliefs of a religion.

Being a homosexual myself, it is my personal belief that homosexuals deserve the same rights as others including the right to wed. Some say that marriage is a "holy matrimony" between two individuals, however there is no prob-

lem when two atheists want get married. I believe in God and attend church regularly, God made me how he wanted to and I do not believe I should be punished because of the beliefs of others.

Also, I doubt I would be going out on a limb in saying the people who wrote in against same-sex marriages have probably broken many of the religious "laws" they endorse.

Thank you.

Mike Williams
Junior
Education

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members: Editor in Chief Angela Olin, News Editor Beth Tabak, Design Editor B.J. Lisko and Copy Editor Mark Stevens. 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. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. Submissions 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.

The Jambar

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THE UNITED STATES' BEST FRIEND



Letters to the Editor

Will the real Wesley Clark please stand up?

Editor:

Just wanted to thank you for a most informative article about the top contenders for this year's Democratic presidential nomination, in the Thursday, January 29 Jambar.

However, I find myself a bit confused now. I thought that it was former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Wesley Clark who was running for president. But the gentleman in the photo on page 1 is Wesley Clark from Sun Microsystems' Asynchronous Design Group (<http://research.sun.com/async/Staff/WClark.html>), not the retired Army general mentioned in the text. So, which Wesley Clark is it: the general or the computer guy?

Or perhaps it's Wesley Clark, the used airplane salesman? (<http://www.aso.com/seller/272/main.htm>) Or did you mean Wesley Clarke, the 2002 British Natural Bodybuilding Federation Champion? (http://www.bnf.co.uk/pro_wes-c.htm) Or maybe it's New Orleans - based modern jazz keyboardist Wesley Clark? (<http://pages.zdnet.com/wesley1700/index.html>)

Or maybe, just maybe, you logged on to Google, typed in "Wesley Clark," and nabbed the first big photo that matched the name? Hmm ...

Richard Sberna
Senior, Professional Writing & Editing

YSU campus offers 'bloody good education'

Editor:

A confluence of events (including letters to your good self in recent issues of The Jambar) leads me to once again defend YSU against some unfair barracking. The issue this time is tuition raises and that, in my opinion, the main culprit is being missed.

Some context: Today Britain moved closer to the U.S. system of pay-as-you-learn tuition as Tony Blair won a vote that will lead to students having to pay for college in Britain for the first time in generations. I'm British and I was educated at the BSc level in England before coming to Ohio State to earn my Ph.D. When I was in high school, entrance into University depended upon grades in high school and the potential to do well, not whether you could afford the tuition or not. This system was paid for by taxes (on everyone) and ensured that those who were able to do were able to go, regardless of their economic status.

My mother was first generation college (St. Andrews University, Mathematics) having grown up in Council (Project) housing and my dad didn't go to college. A system that was the making of me in England is now being dismantled by the same forces that are putting a squeeze on education in the US.

Is it a coincidence that YSU tuition is going up in concert with some of the largest tax giveaways in recent history, primarily to those that are more likely to send their kids to \$25K a year schools? I think I can see where the complaints from YSU students are coming from but I don't think they're complaining to the right people. I imagine most Faculty and Administration at YSU are acutely aware of the extra burden that tuition raises place on our students, and if the world were different, these raises would be avoided such that YSU could continue its goal of affordable and meaningful education at all levels.

YSU has come a long way in my (limited) time here and we offer a bloody good education considering the resources we have. If you really want an equitable education system then get out and vote for one.

Peter Norris
Associate Professor
Chemistry

America needs to inspect more livestock

Editor:

I was amused by your clever editorial cartoon concerning mad cow disease, showing the cow marked into large sections of irrational fear and media hype, with one tiny section of actual danger. The cartoon perfectly depicts the view that the Bush administration and the beef industry are promoting. Perhaps your readers would like some amusing facts to go along with that whopper.

We have now found one case of mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in the United States. That discovery was made in one of the 20 thousand slaughtered cattle that are tested each year. However, there are approximately 35 million cattle slaughtered each year in the United States for human consumption. If we only test 20 thousand out of 35 million, and we found a case in the sample of 20 thousand, then how many do you suppose we might have missed in the 34,980,000 cattle that were not tested?

When mad cow disease was discovered in England, the British took very aggressive measures — including universal testing and the slaughter of millions of cattle — to prevent its spread. Those efforts notwithstanding, more than 130 British people died of this terrible brain destroying disease. The United States is not increasing testing, but we have taken one step: we have stopped the slaughter of "downers" for human consumption. That is, we have stopped using cattle that are so diseased that they cannot walk through the chute to the slaughterhouse, but must instead be dragged. Until a month ago, such cattle were regarded as perfectly fit for human consumption. Now, if a sick animal can somehow stagger through the slaughterhouse door, it's ready for McDonald's. If it has to be dragged in, it goes to Alpo. I hope that makes you feel better.

In Europe and Japan, almost all cattle slaughtered for human consumption are tested, while we test fewer than one in 1,500. But Bush assures us that our burgers are safe and that Iraq was filled with weapons of mass destruction.

Bruce N. Waller
Professor
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Don't fall into 'slow' wireless assumptions

Editor:

I am writing in response to your article "Maag plugs into wireless tech", printed in the Jan. 29 edition of your paper. Although the article was well written, one section of the article, as well as two responses from students, in regards to the "slow" speeds over wireless, happened to catch my eye. Basically, my assumption after reading the article is that since wireless is 1/10 the speed of a hardwired connection, the students don't wish to use it.

Here is my complaint.

Mr. [Thomas] Doctor is correct, wireless (802.11b) is approximately 1/10 the speed of a wired connection. However, the lack of speed will only affect students using large amounts of bandwidth through our local Intranet. Wireless connections run at a speed of 1100kbps, which is nearly 4 times the speed of any home or business cable modem. At these speeds, users can still obtain high quality audio and video streams just as they would with any on-campus wired connection.

In comparison with YSU, our Internet pipeline typically has the capability to upload and download at rates of 300-900kbps, which fluctuates due to the number of users using Internet resources per given day. This would conclude that any one of the wireless laptops in Maag Library would be capable of the same download speeds through the Internet as any wired connection on campus and still have a minimum of 200kbps to spare.

Slow? I think not.

Wireless Internet is the future, and while it still may be in the early stages of infancy, upgrades to improve security and speed are already in the works. The push to a new, faster, wireless connection has already been established with the release of 802.11g - 5400kbps access points and client cards.

I hope my response will help correct the assumptions that wireless connections = slow Internet performance.

Michael Hancharenko
Senior
Geology

SPORTS & RECREATION

James takes over as coach

Former West Virginia Wesleyan head coach Anthony James will take over the YSU soccer team.

By WILLIAM LEHN
The Jambar

After going through three head coaches in eight years, the Youngstown State University women's soccer program is taking yet another direction.

Athletics Director Ron Strollo announced Monday that former West Virginia Wesleyan head coach Anthony James, who led the team to



two conference championships in three years, was hired to replace former head coach Liz Bartley.

In an interview Tuesday, Strollo said he was excited to announce a new direction in the women's soccer program at YSU. James was chosen from a pool of three candidates. Other candidates for the coaching vacancy were Michael Cool, head coach at St. Francis University and Shane Meredith, head coach at IUPUI.

James brings coaching experience to the table after having led successful Division II college and West Virginia high school teams.

He boasts an overall record of 55-25-3 at WVWC and was twice named conference coach of the year.

"He was the best coach possible, and we owe it to our student athletes," Strollo said. "His success lies in the way he communicates with his players and how they buy into his program. This impressed our hir-

ing committee."

After Bartley's contract was not renewed, Strollo said he felt the program needed a new direction. The team finished last year 2-17 and had won a combined 10 games during Bartley's five years as head coach, with six of those wins coming in the first year.

Associate Athletic Director Elaine Jacobs said James' commitment to academics and his recruiting skills were two standout qualities of the new coach.

James is currently the Region I staff coach for the U.S. Olympic Development program and founder and director of coaching for Soccer Vision Academy.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, James said he was excited at the opportunity before him.

"I hope to create an environment where the group is disciplined, competitive and respectful of each other," said James.

James said his plan for next year includes making the students comfortable in class and on the field.

Freshman defender Laura Mauer said despite James' emphasis on fielding a strong, competitive team, his priority lies in the academics of the players. One of their requirements is seven hours of studying per week.

"He stresses academics and has high expectations for us," Mauer said. "School comes first, though, no matter what."

On taking over a losing program, James is not intimidated, giving himself four years to climb to the top of the Horizon League.

James said he expects approximately 20 recruitment visits by prospective student-athletes within the next month.

"Failure is not an option," James said. "I look forward to building from the bottom up."

Call William Lehn at (330) 941-1913.

SNUBBED



ALL STAR?: Cleveland Cavaliers' guard LeBron James was left out of this year's NBA All-Star game, a surprise to many around the league as well as basketball critics.

KRTCampus.com

Indoor track teams impressive in meets

By JOSHUA BOGGS
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's and women's indoor track teams are moving forward with impressive showings in two recent meets.

Head coach Brian Gorby continues to be impressed with the efforts of his teams.

"The men are really starting to come along nicely, and the women are really setting the tone," he said.

Penn State National Relays

That tone for the women was set at the Penn State National Relays on Jan. 31 by the distance medley relay team of senior Leslie Johnson, juniors Emily Schnitkey and Lindsay Wojciak and freshman Lisa Davies.

The quartet ran 12 minutes, 12.52 seconds, breaking the school record and finishing in ninth place.

Davies also just missed the school record in the 3,000-meter run. She finished 14th with a personal-best time of 10:10.55, while Wojciak (3:03.16) also ran a personal-best in the 1,000-meter run finishing in 21st.

Aiding the women's score were freshman school-recorder holder Danielle who was 29th in the 200-meter dash (25.39), sophomore Gina Mavrikis, and freshmen Kim Jendre and Marielle Glanz, who finished 27th, 29th, and 30th, respectively, in the 1,000.

Bolt and Johnson also teamed up with sophomore Alex Casi and junior Jeanna Cunningham on the 18th place 4 x 400-meter relay that finished with a season-best time of 3:58.20.

Senior Laura Schatz also gave the Penguins an 11th place finish in the high

"The men are really starting to come along nicely, and the women are really setting the tone."



— BRIAN GORBY
Track Head Coach

jump clearing 5 feet, 4 inches.

For the YSU men, junior Papis Joh guided the team, placing 22nd in the 400-meter dash (49.80) and 31st in the 200 (22.48).

Also placing in the 400 was freshman Scott Weiser (49.74) in 21st place.

Joh and Weiser also paired with running mates sophomore Ryan Strzalka and Kevin Breckenridge that finished 21st in the 4 x 400 relay.

In the distances, juniors Nick Buzek and Chris Hine and sophomore Nick Kruse placed for the men. Buzek finished 22nd in the 3,000 with a personal-best time of 8:36.89, while Hine was 37th in the 1,000 and Kruse added a 39th-place in the mile.

Rounding out the scoring for the men's team was junior Adam Lewis (8.73), who was 31st in the 60-meter hurdles.

Coach Gorby admits that numerous personal-best performances by his team will help tremendously with the upcoming All-Ohio meet.

"It's definitely a nice stepping stone and confidence builder going into an off week and getting ready for the championship run," Gorby said.

Doug Raymond Invitational (Kent State)

Guiding the way for the women's team at the Doug Raymond Invitational was freshman Nikki Hooper, who finished third in the triple jump and sixth in the long jump.

Sophomores Debbie Breunig, fifth in the 5,000-meter run, and Cassandra Smith, eighth in the 60-meter hurdles (9.87) and 11th in the 200, also performed well for the YSU women.

In throwing action, freshman Lindsey Hill was fifth in the shot put (41 feet, 1 inch) with fellow throwers sophomore Kim Landers and freshman Amy Hill finishing eighth and ninth.

Sophomore Katy William also finished in 13th place in the weight throw.

Junior Jeremy Riehm highlighted the men's team with a fifth-place performance in the 3,000 with a time of 8:54.53, while sophomore teammate Dave Mealy finished ninth.

Freshman Derek Riker also performed well, jumping a season-best 14 feet, 5 inches in the pole vault placing in sixth place with senior Darius Peterson placing 10th in the long jump and 60-meter dash.

In men's throwing action, junior Jarrod Davis was 13th in the weight throw and 14th in the shot put. Freshman Drew Weizer and Mike DeToro also had season-bests at the meet. Weizer threw 41-11 in the shot put and 43-8 in the weight throw, while DeToro threw 34-1 in the weight throw.

YSU will compete at the Rhode Island Invitational on Feb. 6.

Call Joshua Boggs at (330) 941-1811.

Sports in brief

Leveto, this week's best

Once again, the Horizon League has recognized a member of the Youngstown State University swimming and diving team for her achievements in the pool.

Junior Kalyn Leveto, who was named Swimmer of the Meet at last year's Horizon League Championships, was honored as the league's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the week for her performance Saturday against Canisius.



Leveto broke her own one-meter diving school record by more than 30 points with a score of 329.55.

She also won the three-meter, giving her a sweep in the meet of the events that she won at last year's Horizon League Championships.

The entire team performed well against Canisius, with everyone contributing to the 123-97 victory.

Penguins announce recruits

The Youngstown State football program added eight high school seniors, two Division I-A transfers and a junior college offensive lineman on Wednesday, the first afternoon of National Letter-of-Intent Signing Day. Of the 11-person group, six individuals are from Ohio and seven are planned to contribute on the offensive side of the football.

The eight high school seniors are offensive lineman Tyler Booth (New Philadelphia, Ohio), offensive tackle Justin Decker (Warren, Ohio), defensive end Jose Galloza (Hollywood, Fla.), tight end Chris Kenney (Warren, Ohio), placekicker Brian Palmer (Mineral Ridge, Ohio), defensive tackle Brad Samsa (Warren, Ohio), defensive tackle Ben Suran (Meguon, Wis.) and offensive guard Josh Tanner (Orlando, Fla.). The two Division I-A transfers are quarterback Vince Gliatta (Penn State) and tailback Monquantae Gibson (Kentucky) and the junior college addition is offensive lineman Ricky Valenzuela (Glendale, Calif. Community).

source: ysu.edu/sports

STUDENT, continued from page 8

joke, a need to block everything but football out of their Sunday afternoon and opening the door for me. Also, knowing how to carry on a conversation past "Hey, sup?" is absolutely necessary.

Looks don't hurt either.

Finally, Valentine's Day. From my side of things, dropping \$75 on some roses is nice, but sometimes the simpler things are better. Handpicked garden-variety flowers (though completely impossible to find during a Northeast Ohio winter) are even better. Since you probably won't find them in the frozen tundra of Youngstown, check out Giant Eagle's floral department.

Oh yeah, about the chocolates. Give me one day, I will have them finished, and you don't have to give me any lines about how I'm not fat. It's Valentine's Day and candy is one of the perks.

So, there you have it, a wealth of advice in 800 words or less. Enjoy.

To have your relationship questions answered, e-mail Mark and Elizabeth at studentbod@yahoo.com.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.
Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

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Jambar
online @
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thejambar.
com

TV Gal (Commentary)

TV Gal sinks her teeth into 'Angel'

By AMY AMATANGELO
Zap2it.com

(KRT)

Cordelia's back and if I were Eve I'd take a permanent vacation.

Charisma Carpenter returns for the practically perfect 100th episode of "Angel" (Wednesday at 9 p.m. ET on The WB). There's so much to absolutely adore. Cordelia is back to her gloriously snarky self. She puts Eve in her place and refers to the little dear as "Lilah Junior." Also her shock that Spike is now thought of as a hero is hilarious.

There's also a touching tribute to Doyle, who was played by the late Glenn Quinn in the first season. I was delighted that the series remembered the actor and his great performance in this landmark episode. Also great is the scene that features Carpenter (who looks fantastic by the way, her hair is much better now that she's not evil), David Boreanaz and Christian Kane (Lindsay). This trio was in the original pilot and it's great to have them back together again. And I dare say the episode manages to satisfy both those who were for a Cordy/Angel romance and those who were not.

Really there's nothing not to love here. But I do have some concerns that I won't speak of yet because I don't want to spoil anything for you. But this really is a can't-miss episode. So be sure to tune in.

PRESSING TV QUESTIONS

Does anyone actually believe Justin Timberlake took off Janet Jackson's costume by mistake? While I'm sure this very important debate will rage on for weeks to come, I have some other television topics on my mind.

Now that Steve and Miranda have married on "Sex and the City," is Brady's name Brady Brady? And if so, what can be done about that?

What is the point of the Chloe story line on "24"? Yes, she's reminiscent of that annoying co-worker we've all had to deal with, but why is the show, which clearly has bigger problems to deal with, even wasting time on Chloe and her daycare needs. Unless, of course, this is all part of a master plan to distract us before revealing Chloe as traitor extraordinaire? And if that's the case, we're on to them.

What's with the blatant disregard for securi-

ty concerns on "Alias"? Jack goes to his car to instant message Irina over a wireless network without even using code words. Lauren makes cell phone calls and goes on with her evil self in the halls of the CIA. And everyone leaves important, top-secret documents out in the open on desks. Come to think of it, why don't they even have cubicles for heaven's sakes? I was more surreptitious when I talked on the phone to my friends in high school. Ask my mom.

Does anyone else think Bachelor Brad on "The Bachelorette" looks just like Bradley Cooper?

Is Chloe really Lois Lane? Last week on "Smallville," we learned that Chloe had a cousin named Lois Lane who had no interest in journalism and Chloe was asking to have some stories published in the Daily Planet under her name. Is this something that continues? Inquiring minds want to know.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I've got 12 vampire slayers behind me and none of them has ever dated you," Andrew to Angel on "Angel." Can I quote everything that came out of Andrew's mouth? From his pronunciation of "vampire" to his constant "Lord of the Rings" references ("He's alive Frodo. He's alive.") to his announcement that he's "82 percent more manly," this was definitely one of my all time favorite "Angel" episodes. Plus, we got updates on the Scooby gang.

"I can still be whatever you need me to be," Sherry to her ex-husband, President Palmer, on "24." Notice how Sherry gets her own office when she conducts nefarious business?

"I have to check on Mr. Nielsen. You know, I don't see what the problem is. These numbers aren't that bad." Becker talking about a patient on the series finale of "Becker." Thanks for TV Gal reader Rob for the quote.

"As a singer, you are a brilliant car salesman." Simon destroying the hopes of another contestant on "American Idol."

"All these years of watching 'Hart to Hart' are about to pay off." Lorelai before using a credit card to break into a church on "Gilmore Girls."

"I'm a beard with a wig." Samantha on "Sex and the City" when the tabloids report that she's a fag hag. Thanks to TV Gal reader Jeff for the quote. By the way, Foxy Samantha was definitely my favorite.

"Apparently I'm the brains behind this oper-

ation." Boston Rob about his team on "Survivor: All-Stars."

TO THE TV GAL READER BELONGS THE SPOILS

You know the rules. Don't read if you don't want to know.

Lucas will be in a life-threatening accident on "One Tree Hill" (but since he's the star, something tells me he'll live) and Dan will have to publicly acknowledge Lucas is his son in order to donate blood. Peyton will tell Brooke that she and Lucas kissed. Also Sheryl Crow guest stars on an upcoming episode. The first cut really is the deepest.

Carrie will go into labor on the Feb. 15 episode of "Alias," which should make Marshall even more humorous. Also in this episode Quentin Tarantino returns as McKenas Cole (he's in cahoots with the Covenant), Patricia Wettig returns as Dr. Judy Barnett (Sloane will seek her counsel) and Vivica A. Fox guest stars as a rogue security systems designer. Also Sark and Lauren will make a tighter bond.

Unlike the world of "7th Heaven" where the kids don't have sex before marriage and don't even seem to want to, the Feb. 9 episode of "Everwood" will address teenage sexuality in an honest, objective and non-patronizing way. There are no lectures but there are some great messages. Since the show has such a large teen fan base, I'm delighted that they are so honestly addressing this subject and not ignoring it, which would be the easier thing to do. It's a great episode that makes me love the show even more (who knew that was possible?). Ephram is more than ready to have sex with Madison (call up the Everwood police) and Amy goes to Dr. Brown to get a prescription for the pill but then finds out Tommy is still dealing drugs. Also Andy wants Linda to spend the night at his house.

Poor Pete. He didn't even get the chance to try to kill Chloe last week. But he'll get a story line on Feb. 11. Pete will ask Clark to use his powers to save him from gang members who want to kill him. Also Lex will find out that Adam is being treated with a dangerous drug.

Dr. Weaver will dedicate a new center in Dr. Romano's memory and Thandie Newton will drive everyone in the "ER" crazy. Dr. Gallant will narrowly escape a bullet.

"Angel" will travel back to World War II on

Feb. 11.

Michelle Phillips, who played Val's mom on "90210" returns to all things Aaron Spelling to play Annie's half-sister on "7th Heaven."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK AHEAD

All times listed are EST for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jess, the baddest man in the whole darn town of Stars Hollow, returns for the next two episodes of "Gilmore Girls" (Tuesday, WB, 8 p.m.). After a slow start, the series has finally found some momentum this season and while these two episodes aren't the show's best they are a vast improvement over the "study tree" episode. There's the show's trademark humor (Rory refers to Paris' relationship with her professor as "May-Ming Dynasty") and I love the stuff that's going on with Lane and her mom. But I do think we need to get past this Lorelai won't tell Emily and Richard about Jason nonsense. It seems too juvenile. Even for Lorelai. I'll have more to say about Jess' reappearance after you've seen the episodes.

I don't know guys. I'll give you that "One Tree Hill" (Tuesday, WB, 9 p.m.) isn't the utter disaster it once was, but I still can't stand the show. Too much sex, too many characters who look alike and not enough character motivation that makes an ounce of sense. Even though I feel this way, can we still be friends? Gerald McRaney and Tess Harper guest star as Dan's parents. Apparently Major Dad will help us all understand why Dan is such a jerk.

"Scrubs," the poster series for NBC's mistreatment of their own shows, moves to Tuesday night (9:30 p.m.) this week.

The final 32 "American Idol" contestants will be revealed this Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on FOX. Do you think Scooter girl has a chance?

That's all for today. But remember you get two TV Gal columns for the price of one for February sweeps. So I'll be back on Thursday with thoughts on "Survivor: All-Stars" (Why is Richard always naked? How come I still can't understand Tom?), fearless predictions about how "Sex and the City" will end (remember there have been rumors of a big death), and how "Friends" should end.

Have a question, seen a familiar face, have an inside scoop or want to nominate a quote of the week? Write me at amyvgal@zap2it.com.

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<http://cc.yasu.edu/career-services>

Column

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

BY MIKE PINGREE
KRT

MMMM, SOMETHING SURE SMELLS GOOD

A herd of wild elephants drank their fill of rice beer being brewed in open casks in a remote Malaysian village, and got heavily intoxicated. They then went on a drunken rampage, and four of the polluted pachyderms knocked down some power lines and were electrocuted.

BAD DRIVER? ME? NO WAY? CRASH!

After being stopped for speeding in South Brunswick, N.J., a man got back on the road and was reading the ticket as he drove along when he crashed into an ambulance that was stopped at a red light.

SUDDENLY, I FEEL MUCH BETTER

A thief, who was arrested in Duesseldorf, Germany, faked a heart attack so convincingly that the police rushed him to the hospital and removed his handcuffs so he could be examined. He immediately fled.

THAT IS TOTALLY BESIDE THE POINT!

A man pulled up to the drive-through window of a Chinese restaurant in Omaha, Neb., and complained bitterly about the poor quality of the food he had purchased earlier. The fact that he had bought the food at a different restaurant didn't seem to faze him in the least.

THE MAP SAYS THIS WAY ... AIEEEEE!

A British hiking magazine inadvertently printed directions on how to go down a 4,400-foot mountain in Scotland that led off the edge of a cliff. The magazine has apologized for any inconvenience.

OF COURSE THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

A truck carrying 10 tons of beer fell through

the ice on the frozen Irtysh River in Siberia. After many failed attempts to retrieve the beer, the Russian Army has been called in to take over the job.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

A Texas congressman, who is going through an extremely bitter divorce, has a new opponent in his fight for re-election: his ex-wife. Asked if her candidacy is an act of revenge, she said: "Absolutely not."

HE'S NOT GETTING OFF THAT EASY

A man was having sex with his mistress in his home in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, when his wife walked in and caught them. The Guardian newspaper said he later attempted to hang himself "rather than face the wrath of a woman spurned." But the wife cut him down.

HEY, THEY'RE PLAYING MY SONG

Police in Columbus, Ohio, have been having great success catching car thieves by parking a "bait car" in a high crime area where it is likely to be stolen. After the thief steals the car, the police use remote control to bring it to a stop and lock the doors. To add to the thief's chagrin, the car then plays the theme song from the popular TV show "Cops" with its familiar refrain, "Bad boys, bad boys/Whatcha gonna do/Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?"

I FEEL LIGHT AS A FEATHER

In an eight-hour operation, a team of doctors removed a 176-pound tumor from a middle-aged woman in Brasov, Transylvania. It covered most of her back and ran halfway down her thighs. With the tumor, she weighed 264 pounds. Without it, 88.

POLLY, continued from page 8

after a four-year relationship, but while he was still married as well.

Are we to believe that is something the most cautious man in the world would do? I didn't think so either.

Also the character Sandy is a very odd character who believes he is a professional actor because he had a part in a movie about 15 years ago.

This leads him to do lots of strange things like attempt to play both Judas and Jesus in a local performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

The easiest way to describe this movie is by comparing both it and Stiller to another movie and actor.

If you are a big fan of the Jim Carrey movies "Ace Ventura" and "Dumb and Dumber," then you know that movies like "Bruce Almighty" (in which Carrey tames himself down a bit) are funny, but simply a different kind of funny.

The same goes for this movie, in which Stiller takes his character from "The Royal Tenenbaums" and matures him a little to get someone that is a little more on the level. Is the movie as good as "Meet the Parents"? No. Is it as good as "Glitter"? Probably.

Either way, it's worth a look and even if Polly doesn't make you laugh, Stiller comes along to take care of that.

SPECTACLE, continued from page 1

Freston, who produced the halftime show, to come to their own conclusions.

"We were really ripped off," Freston said in a CNN.com article.

Referring to the hit show on MTV, Freston added, "We were 'Punk'd' by Janet."

Some YSU Marketing professors said that the stunt was definitely pre-planned by either Jackson, CBS or Viacom, the leading global media company that owns CBS and MTV, along with many other cable and network channels.

"It raises a lot of suspicion on who's doing what based on the relationship of Viacom, CBS and MTV," Marketing professor Bart Kittle said.

On the homepage of Viacom, there are currently links to two statements regarding the Super Bowl incident. The CBS statement reads:

"CBS deeply regrets the incident that occurred during the Super Bowl halftime show. We attended all rehearsals throughout the week and there was no indication that any such thing would happen. The moment did not conform to CBS broadcast standards and we would like to apologize to anyone who was offended."

just below the CBS state-

ment, the MTV statement reads:

"The tearing of Janet Jackson's costume was unrehearsed, unplanned, completely unintentional and was inconsistent with assurances we had about the content of the performance. MTV regrets this incident occurred and we apologize to anyone who was offended by it."

Kittle said that he could not discount the fact that Viacom owned both networks and somehow nobody knew of what was to occur when Jackson performed.

"She's still on the CBS programming for the Grammy's so somebody may have known something," Kittle said. "I think the people who paid big money for the ads got shorted by Jackson."

Marketing professor Jane Reid agrees with Kittle, and said that the media is to blame, as they have raised the bar for stars to go over the top to shock the public.

"It's sad that something that lasted seconds will be on TV forever," Reid said.

Call Michael J. Balala at (330) 941-1989.

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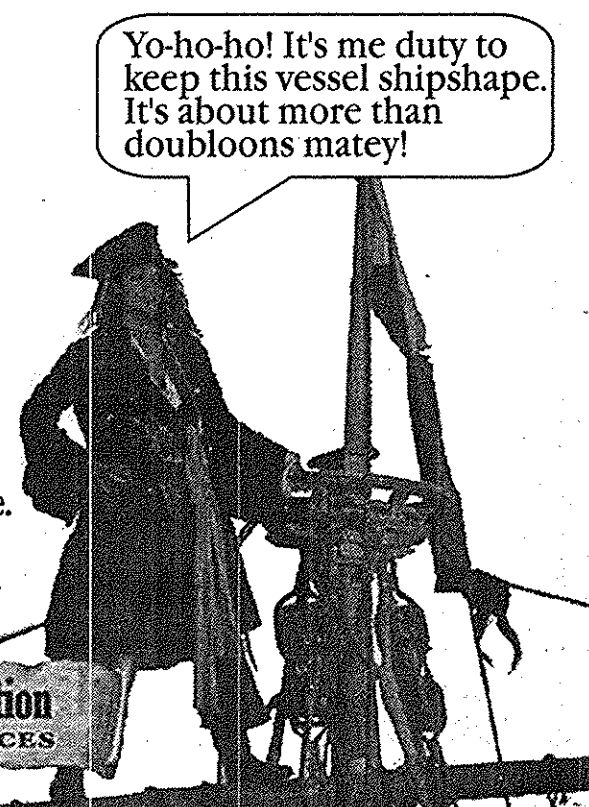
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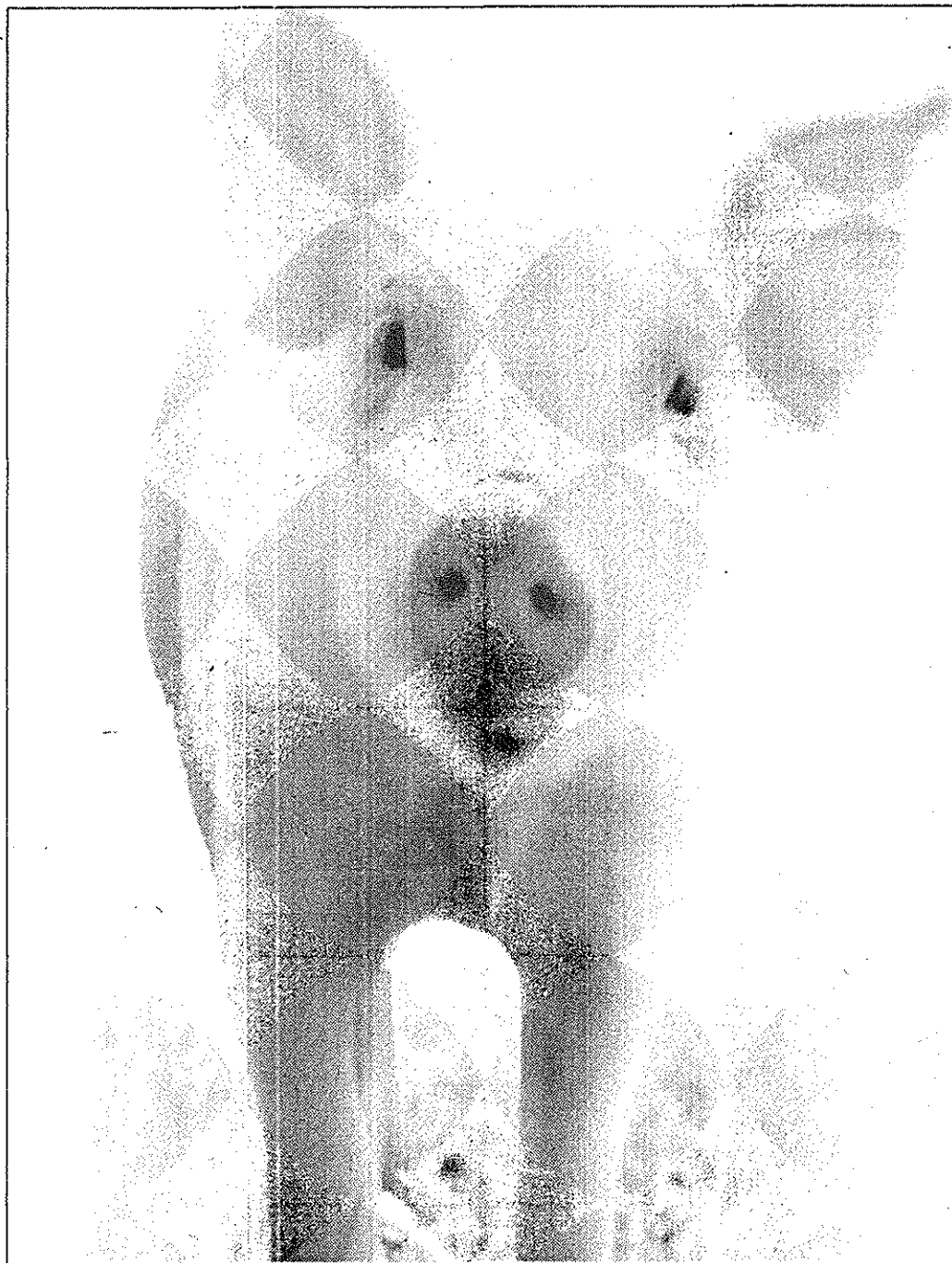
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CD Review

Incubus stay fresh with latest release

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambar

One of the greatest aspects of rock music is that some of the things that just don't work for some bands work out tremendously for others.

Following their "Razorblade Suitcase" album, the group Bush started to experiment with adding elements of other genres of music into their own. It didn't work. Their output became increasingly void of rock appeal. Front man Gavin Rossdale became Mr. Gwen Stefani (though I doubt you'll hear him complaining much).

On Incubus' latest release, "a crow left of the murder..." it is plainly obvious that what failed for Bush won't be their downfall.

Combining lead Brandon Boyd's driving vocals and the band's intelligent, thought out and poetic lyrics with enough versatility in musical backing, the album is strong.

Boyd's voice isn't nearly as powerful as Scott Stapp's or Eddie Vedder's, but he does more with what he has. The album is solid from start to finish, mixing slower melodies with up-tempo rockers. Incubus' greatest strength is their ability to change the pace and mix things up, even within songs.

The album starts on the right foot with "Megalomaniac," the first single released to radio. The title suggests that the band is tired of radio-friendly rock bands using the radio as their grand stage for arrogance.

You have to wonder if it isn't Creed that is the target of the

track. Lyrics like "If I were your appendages / I'd hold open your eyes, / So you'd see / That all of us are heaven sent. / And there was never meant to be only one" suggest that the band is tired of the pompous grandstanding done by preaching pop groups like Creed.

On the title track, the lyrics suggest that people should be freethinking, rather than following the crowd (by the way, if you don't get the title of the album, a "murder" is a flock of crows).

The guitars provide a steadily rising up with Boyd's rising vocals, leading up to his repeated shouting of "Do you get it, yet?"

"Talk Show on Mute" references George Orwell's classic book "1984." In the book, citizens live under the control of a Big Brother figure where everything is censored.

Boyd refers to people as "electric sheep" and says "Quick! / Your time is almost up / Make 'em forget / that they're the moth / edging in / towards the flame / burn into obscurity."

"Pistola" opens with a techno flavor and rises into a raging, rocking track. Boyd refers to his lyrics as "a patriot's weapon of choice" as he expresses his right and ability to express himself through his songs.

"Southern Girl" is the band's love ballad. Every rock group needs love ballads.

Boyd's syrupy vocals on this track ought to invoke lovemaking all over the nation. "We'll behave like animals, swing from tree to tree / We can do anything that turns you up / and sets you free ... So come outside and walk

with me / we'll try each other on, see if we fit."

On "Priceless," the band kicks back up the noise level and lets loose. Banging drums and Boyd's staggered delivery provide a solid dose of energy. The song pauses for everyone to catch their breath about halfway through with a solid guitar feature that rises and rises until Boyd's voice can be heard once again with lyrics that seem to be fighting their way out of his chest and into the microphone.

"Here in My Room" is a throwaway track about hooking up at a party. With the pace of the song, Incubus would have been better off getting Barry Manilow to do the vocals. Boyd's voice is the wrong kind of voice for a crawlingly slow, maniacally Dave Matthews-ish song.

Incubus continues to be successful with their formula. Poignant lyrics, strong vocals and a solid instrumental backing provide them with the opportunity to continue to experiment and stay fresh.

And that's the best way to describe this album. It's fresh. It's the rare album that you could put into the CD player, press play and just let it go.

Most of the tracks wouldn't work on the radio, but that's mostly because there are few stations that carry the kind of music that one could describe as having "intelligent" lyrics.

Modern radio stations are happy to have their three-verse, catchy chorus tracks that bother you until you can't get them out of your head even if you try.

This album won't bother you, unless of course, you prefer not to think or feel anything from your music.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

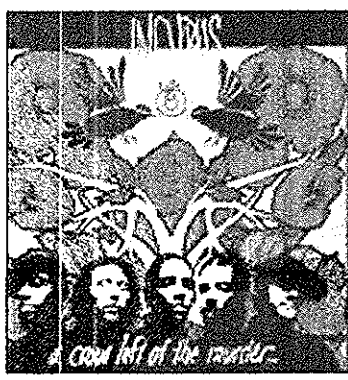
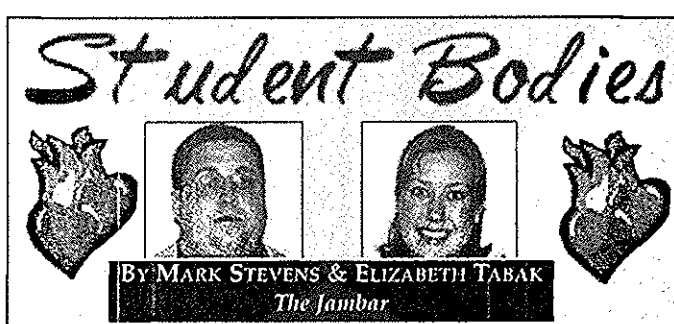


Photo courtesy of enojincubus.com

LATEST RELEASE: Rock band Incubus is back with its latest release "A Crow Left of the Murder."



His Side:

Like Janet Jackson trying to promote a new album, we seem to be running out of creative topics to discuss in our weekly column.

Several of you have expressed to us that you enjoy what we do, and we are trying to provide fresh discussions on a weekly basis, but essentially, we are running dry.

I thought about talking about how to break up with someone.

All I could come up with is don't be like Melissa. She broke up with me in sixth grade by having her sister call me and tell me it was over.

I thought about giving ideas for approaching someone you were attracted to but didn't know, but I've never done that, so I doubt I'd be much help.

I guess I could suggest that you just be honest and avoid trying to be smooth or cool, but for all I know, that wouldn't work.

I thought about doing a list of all of the things that I find attractive in a female, but I think I'm already treading thin ice with my girlfriend after last week's discussion of noticing attractive members of the opposite sex.

I thought about doing a how-to guide for guys on buying Valentine's Day gifts, but I didn't think I'd be able to top

my Sweetest Day/Swedish Fish Day idea, so I'd rather not embarrass myself.

Essentially when it comes to buying gifts you just have to know the person you're giving the gift to. If she likes flowers, drop \$75 on some roses. If she likes candy, buy her a huge box of chocolates and then be prepared to tell her how much you care about her and you don't think she's fat even though she ate the whole box in two days.

I thought about doing something controversial just to see if I could get any more letters that referred to what my mother must think of me, but there really isn't much room in our mailbox due to the ongoing debate of the values of Christian mythology and how they apply to the practice of same-sex marriages.

I thought about just rambling on and on about all of the things I wouldn't write about, and I guess I just did.

Her Side:

Much like Mark, I am at a loss.

It is going to be a short lived loss, though. Right now it's a mix of writer's block, creative drain and procrastination to the point of panic. Don't worry, I will come up with something.

So, here goes, a wrap up of all the ideas that Mark set for-

ward in his segment.

Let me set the record straight. Writing about how to break up with someone was my idea.

I came to the conclusion that there never really is a "proper" way to break up with someone. All that I know is leaving a message with their brother while they are on a weekend camping trip is probably not a good idea (not that I ever did that. Wink. Wink. Smile). Actually, neither is using the metaphor of "imagine standing in a toilet, and Brian is standing over you. Now imagine Brian is flushing the toilet." Middle School was a troubled time, not the best for breakups.

Without completely thinking something out, the only advice I can offer on approaching someone is to just swallow your pride and do it. You're going to have to sooner or later, unless you enjoy being the scary old lady with more cats than Bennifer has breakups.

What do I enjoy about the opposite sex? Depending on the day it can be everything or nothing at all.

Honestly, the best qualities are: a sense of humor, at least a slight fashion sense, an ability to quote almost any line from any movie, being able to take a

See STUDENT, page 4

Movie Review

Stiller carries 'Polly' for ride



Photo courtesy of alongcamepolly.com

QUIRKY: Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston star in "Along Came Polly."

BY JASON BAYER
The Collegiate (Virginia Tech)

(U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. - Ben Stiller's career can be described with the same word that suits most of his characters: Quirky.

He has played in movies that are hyped as mainstream, but become box office bombs ("Duplex") and movies that are hilarious but fail to find an audience beyond college students who watch the same five movies over and over again (with "Zoolander" being one of them).

He finally struck gold on both fronts with the smash hit "Meet the Parents" in 2000 and now he has come close to that balance again with "Along Came Polly."

The slightly tamer Stiller paired with the red-hot Jennifer Aniston creates a dangerous one-two punch that director John Hamburg (who also wrote the film) doesn't hesitate to exploit.

Rueben Feffer (Stiller) might be the most cautious man in the world. Not only in his job as a risk analyst for an insurance company, but in his personal life as well. Things get a bit shaken up for him, though when he catches his wife Lisa (Debra Messing) and her scuba instructor doing more than looking for coral on their honeymoon.

After several unhelpful words of advice

from his best friend Sandy (Philip Seymour Hoffman), he takes a risk and asks out Polly (Aniston), a girl he knew when he was in middle school and has recently run into.

From there his lifestyle starts to be altered dramatically as he learns that some risks you just have to take.

The truth is we've seen this premise before. But as can be expected, the plot is full of awkward moments, which is clearly Ben Stiller's forte.

He is so good at it that he carries the movie from start to finish with relative ease.

That is not to say Aniston and Hoffman don't each bring something interesting to the table, because each of them certainly do (for Hoffman it's a new comedic style and for Aniston it rhymes with a bot huddy), but they are side notes on Stiller's novel.

Alec Baldwin, Hank Azaria and Bryan Brown all add a separate ingredient of comedic flavor to really make this film an all-around laugh from start to finish.

There are a few things that could be considered flaws in the plot, however.

For instance, Rueben starts dating Polly only a few days after coming home from his shortened honeymoon.

So not only did he start dating that soon

See POLLY, page 6