



The JAMBAR

TUESDAY
April 20, 2004

Mostly Sunny
HIGH: 62 LOW: 45

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Issue 53

-A JAMBAR INVESTIGATION- The SWEET Deal

The perks of being the president

YSU President David Sweet says he is not excessive in the spending of university money while others question his use of campus funds.

BY ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar

As students paid rising tuition costs for which he lobbied, YSU President David Sweet used public funds to rent a limousine for him and his wife to dine on chateau brand and to order wine to their hotel rooms. Sweet also used university money to decorate his home with flowers, to host

dinners where the per-person charge ran as high as \$46, and to have his car parked by valet services.

In a four-month investigation, The Jambar examined how Sweet — whose salary is \$261,223 annually, which includes his \$50,000 housing and \$7,703 car allowance — has used university funds as well as private donations given to the university for his own travel, his wife's travel and for entertaining people at his home. The Jambar also examined the spend-

ing practices of some top YSU officials, including Special Assistant to the President George McCloud's \$250 lunch at the five-star Spago restaurant in Beverly Hills, Calif., and a \$2,396 trip to China and Hawaii.

The investigation, which looked into Sweet's entertainment and travel expenses from September 1, 2002, through January, shows that:

▶ Sweet spent about \$3,500 in university funds for flowers for his home, his loge at Stambaugh Stadium and for functions he hosted in Kilcawley Center. He once spent \$252 for a "blooming plant" for events at his house.

▶ When staying at hotels, Sweet and his wife, Pat, spent nearly \$400 on room service, mostly for breakfasts.

▶ Sweet was reimbursed \$34,000 for hosting hundreds of people at his Liberty Township home for meals, post-football game parties and receptions.

▶ For the parties at their home, the Sweets spent about \$1,500 on wine and alcohol, using money people donated to the university to cover the costs.

▶ Sweet spent thousands of dollars dining at restaurants with his wife and others, ordering several Beefeater gin cocktails and other alcoholic drinks on the tab of university donors.

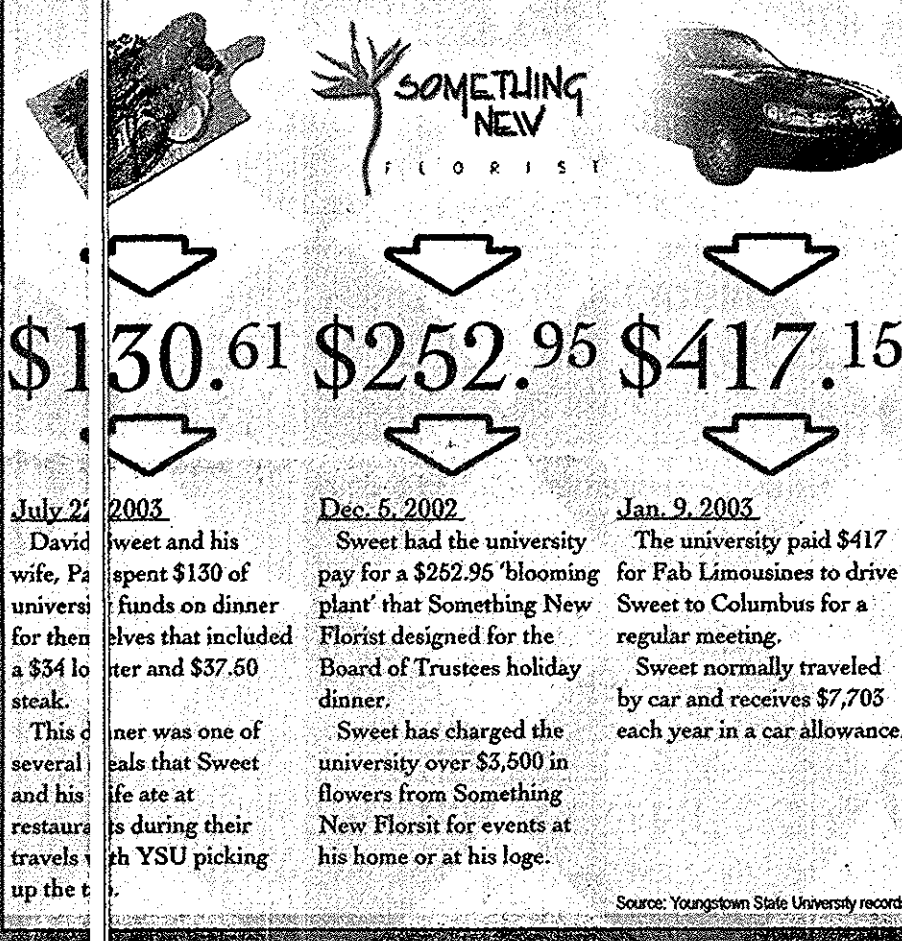
▶ Sweet also had the university reimburse him for less expensive refreshments, including a \$12 Burger King snack for he and his wife and a \$1.89 iced tea.

▶ The university has covered the \$270 in tips that Sweet and his wife gave to people who carried their suitcases, parked their cars and cleaned their hotel rooms.

▶ A total of \$7,703 of Sweet's annual salary reimburses him for using his car for university business. He has also collected the university rate of 31 cents for miles he has driven while on YSU business for distances greater than 50 miles. In addition, the university has paid Sweet for money he spent traveling turnpikes, including \$1.15 for toll charges. Sweet, however, did not always travel by his own car. On one occasion, he had the university pay \$415

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

University President David Sweet has spent thousands of dollars in university funds traveling, entertaining and decorating his home and gifts with flowers. The charts below summarize some of Sweet's expenses from Sept. 1, 2002, to January of this year.



July 21, 2002
David Sweet and his wife, Pat, spent \$130.61 of university funds on dinner for then a \$34 lobster steak. This dinner was one of several that Sweet and his wife ate at restaurants during their travels with YSU picking

Dec. 5, 2002
Sweet had the university pay for a \$252.95 'blooming plant' that Something New Florist designed for the Board of Trustees holiday dinner. Sweet has charged the university over \$3,500 in flowers from Something New Florist for events at his home or at his loge.

Jan. 9, 2003
The university paid \$417 for Fab Limousines to drive Sweet to Columbus for a regular meeting. Sweet normally traveled by car and receives \$7,703 each year in a car allowance.

See SWEET, page 4

Sweet's Response

University President David Sweet explains his spendings.



"One approach used in developing support at many universities, including YSU, is hosting dinners, receptions and other social events at the president's residence. Invited guests may include current and prospective donors, alumni, public officials or individuals who can introduce us to potential supporters."

"To compete effectively in the fundraising environment, I think we need these kinds of investment and kinds of hospitality."

"While success can only be measured over time, I am proud of the fact that in the past 3-75 years we have raised \$15,396,298 for the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, student scholarships and academic programs," Sweet said. "This contrasts with the \$5,123,621 in the four years prior."

See pages 4 & 5 for more of "The Sweet Deal, A Jambar Investigation."

Coming Thursday: The Jambar examines the spending of other top university administrators.

YSU breaks ground for center

BY KRISTINA POE &
ZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

Grains and drizzling rain did not stop the groundbreaking of the Youngstown State University John S. and Doris M. Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center. Monday afternoon, students, teachers, administrators and faculty crowded into the front lobby of Beeghly Center to witness what most speakers deemed a historic day. The music of YSU's Pride band blasted



Chuck Rogers / The Jambar

REC CENTER: University President David Sweet breaks ground for the Doris M. Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center with YSU students Monday.

See ENTER, page 6

Judge Jones returns to discuss segregation

BY WILLIAM LEHN
The Jambar

McKay Auditorium was the setting Friday afternoon for the Youngstown State University community to praise one of its own. Retired federal judge Nathaniel R. Jones was the keynote speaker for YSU's commemoration of 50 years of Brown v. Board of Education.

Of the 60 in attendance, which included President David Sweet and Jones' former law colleague Mike Harshman, was YSU graduate

student Pamela Stennis. Stennis was amazed at the accomplishments that Sweet called "one of YSU's greatest success stories."



HARSHMAN

Born in Youngstown on May 12, 1926, Jones was educated during a time when segregation was a way of life. Growing up in the shadows of the federal courthouse that now bears his name, Jones never thought he would have such an impact on the rights of

See DECISION, page 2

Relay brings in donations

BY STEPHANIE GREATHOUSE
The Jambar

More than 350 people gathered on the Youngstown State University campus this weekend for an emotionally filled tribute for those who have lost or survived their battles with cancer.

From Friday to Saturday afternoon, Youngstown State University hosted the Youngstown Relay for Life. At

See EVENT, page 6

Sneak Peek

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Inside today's issue:

Latin Art festival hits YSU campus.
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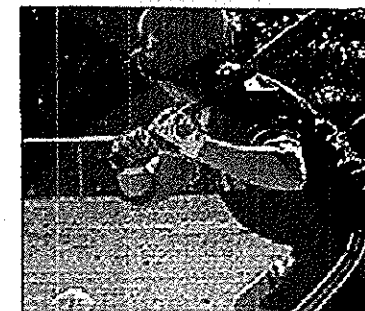
thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice of Youngstown State University

Do you think the Cleveland Indians will have a winning record this year?
Vote @ www.thejambar.com

YSU softball team picks up two league victories. Page 6



DECISION, continued from page 1

minorities in the United States. "I just focused on making a difference in everything I did," Jones said.

Jones said he was indebted for the opportunity YSU gave him in a time when it was socially prescribed segregation in the north.

Discharged from the Air Force in 1945, Jones attended then Youngstown College on the G.I. Bill.

"In 1954, when Brown v. Board was handed down, I was here at YSU," he said.

Jones was working on his law degree when he recalled, "law schools only admitted two blacks each year and would wash one out." The notion that segregation was a southern problem did not exist in his mind.

Citing examples from not being able to take physical education classes at the downtown YMCA but at the one for blacks only on Federal Street and having tickets to mixers and dances in their student activity books removed by YSU administration, Jones found his calling to be a cham-

panion of the minority student.

Receiving his law degree in 1956, Jones started on a career that found him being the only YSU alum to argue before the Supreme Court.

Stennis said listening to Jones's accomplishments was like having a history lesson in civil rights.

"If it were not for people like Jones, I wouldn't be sitting in this seat today having the opportunity to earn an advanced degree," the master's in English candidate said.

Stennis, whose whole family went to college, was a prime beneficiary of what Jones called, "the ruling that altered institutions that guided people's destinies."

Jones, who was general counsel to the NAACP from 1969-1979, said Brown was the most significant decision by the Supreme Court in the twentieth century.

"It has reaped benefits for all across many aspects of society but education is still in dire need," he said.

Jones spoke about how much race issues have infected

the United States. He cited the "insulting" Dred Scott decision in 1856 where a freed slave was told he couldn't sue the court because by the constitution he was property and not a man. Jones, appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Carter in 1979, said Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 was landmark in creating the divide of separate but equal in the U.S.A.

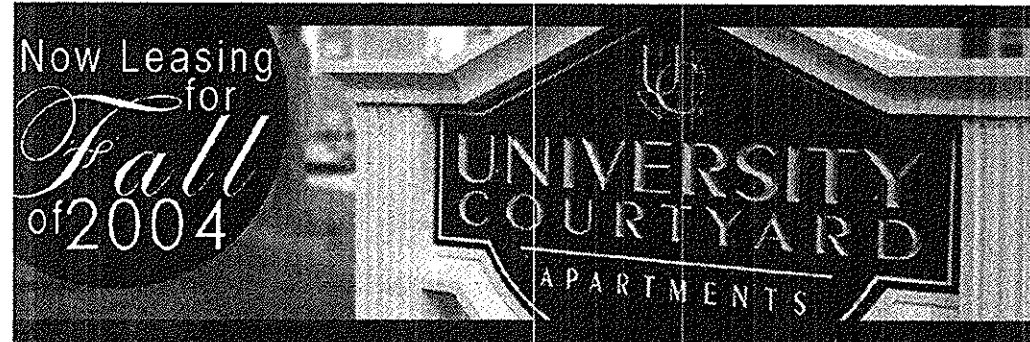
Stennis surveyed the crowd and said she wished the audience had been filled with young people, black and white, to hear this story.

"The more people know about this, the more they understand," she said.

Afterwards, assistant professor Paul Scracic said "YSU should be proud of producing someone like him. He's had such a profound effect on civil rights and laws in this country. He truly is our most significant graduate."

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EXPENSES, continued from page 4

honoring YSU Director for the Center for Urban and Regional Studies Hunter Morrison. Sweet and his wife stayed the night at the Hyatt Regency and the university picked up the \$166 hotel bill.

The couple also spent \$92 in university funds staying overnight in Cleveland after the YSU women's softball playoff game in May 2003.

Sweet said his wife serves an important role for the university and that public funds that have been used for her travel have been well spent.

"By keeping active, the spouse and the president can learn from the experiences of other campus speakers," Sweet said, referring to the numerous conferences he and his wife have attended together.

While traveling, the couple has frequently tipped people to help them with their bags and clean their hotel rooms.

Sweet once tipped baggage handlers \$38 in one day for carrying his luggage.

In the 17 months between September 2002 and January of this year, Sweet spent a total of \$271 tipping housekeeping maids, baggage handlers, shuttle drivers and valet parking attendants. On several occasions, he used university funds to tip baggage handlers \$10 and once gave a valet parking attendant \$10.

For their trip to Naples, the university reimbursed Sweet for \$76 of tips to housekeeping, baggage handlers and valet parking attendants.

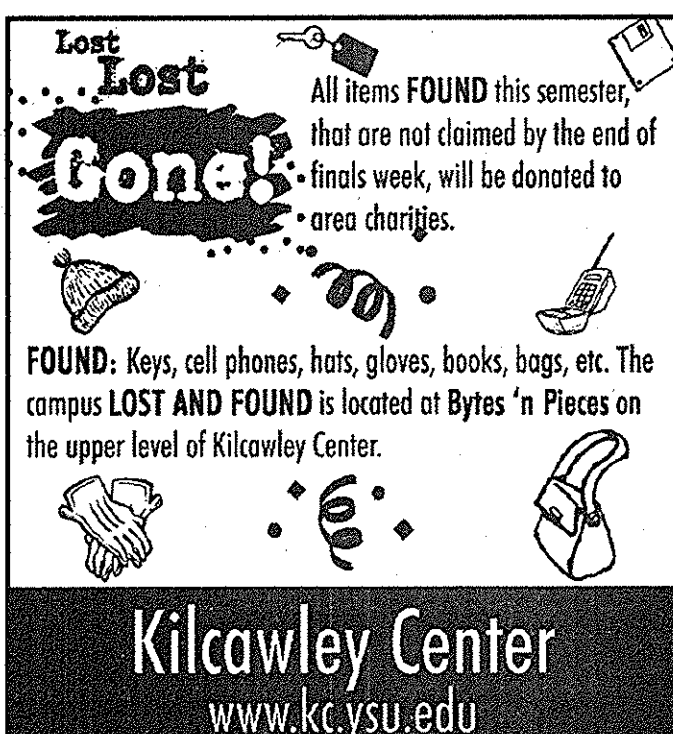
"I do not think we are excessive," Sweet said.

Call Angela Olin at (330) 941-1991.

Lost Lost Gone!

All items FOUND this semester, that are not claimed by the end of finals week, will be donated to area charities.

FOUND: Keys, cell phones, hats, gloves, books, bags, etc. The campus LOST AND FOUND is located at Bytes 'n Pieces on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.



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Visit the Kilcawley staff office for an application. Requirements for student employment and student work areas in Kilcawley Center are listed on the Kilcawley web site at www.kc.yzu.edu

Administrative Professionals Day BALLOON & TREATS BOUQUET
Celebrate Adm. Professionals Day on Wednesday, April 21st. Stop in Graphic Services in Kilcawley Center and see our festive balloon arrangement tied to a colorful gift bag full of yummy snacks. Advance orders are appreciated and encouraged before 2pm on Monday, April 19.

Buy One Giant Cookie Get One Free
Offer good with coupon at the Market Place Café in Kilcawley Center. Coupon only available on the Kilcawley web site.

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Our most popular munchie snack! Now on SALE 10¢ OFF a 1/4lb with coupon available on the Kilcawley web site.

YSU CLASS RINGS
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YSU Arby's Introduces THREE NEW MARKET FRESH SALADS
Enjoy a crisp summer fresh Martha's Vineyard, Asian Sesame, or Santa Fe salad at Arby's. Visit the Kilcawley web site for our new salad menu descriptions.

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Today's Editorial

Trustees need to keep student interests in mind

In the coming weeks, the three new members of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees will be receiving advice — solicited and unsolicited — from many with opinions about how the university should operate.

These three trustees will, undoubtedly, be briefed about higher education funding, labor contract negotiations and the overall YSU curriculum.

They will meet deans, professors and administrators. They will spend time reading reports and analyzing data about the university. They will study marketing campaigns and be asked to provide feedback about enrollment measures.

The three new trustees have large responsibilities and will need to spend countless hours educating themselves about the university.

These trustees are beginning their terms at a time when student confidence in the administration has been rocked by repeated tuition increases and high-profile controversies involving two professors — one accused of having bogus academic credentials and another of sexually harassing a student.

In addition to addressing these concerns and the fundamental issues underlying both of them, the trustees must also acquire an understanding of who attends YSU.

We are a diverse student body — some first generation college students, others who came to learning later in their lives. But we all share one trait — we are here because we need and want to learn.

It's not easy for some of us to be here. Some of us work full-time jobs, juggle babysitting schedules for our children and take hard-earned money from our parents who want more for us than what they had.

To the new trustees, Scott R. Schulick, Don Cagigas and William Bresnahan, we have a simple message: get to know us. Know whom you will be affecting when you vote a certain way on a pending matter. Be able to put a face and a name when you think about ramifications from another tuition increase.

Be able to call a student or two to get feedback about raises for administrators or staffing for classes. Give us a voice. Be a representative for who we are and what we stand for.

Do not rely on the two student trustee members of the board or the Student Government Association president and executive vice presidents as the sole voices of all students. Realize that these student leaders may not represent the single mothers or fathers, the students who work full-time to pay for their educations or those who drive lengthy distances because they believe YSU offers an excellent and affordable education.

To the new trustees, we urge you to walk into a computer lab, sit down at a table in Peaberry's or stop by events hosted on campus. Strike up a conversation with some of these students. Ask them how their classes are. Ask them what they plan to do when they graduate. Ask them the best thing about their college experience — ask them the worst. Ask them how they pay for college. Ask them their opinions about what YSU is lacking.

Get to know them. They will start to trust you and you them. You will then have the relationship you need to do the job for which Gov. Bob Taft has just appointed you.

The next time you attend a board or committee meeting, you will finally be properly prepared to responsibly serve as a member of the YSU Board of Trustees.

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.

NEW WORRIES



Letters to the Editor

President-elects look to better YSU future

Editor:

The dust has finally settled on this year's Student Government Association election. After three and a half weeks of extreme highs and lows, the four teams of outstanding young men and women can finally rest. As one of the teams in this exciting race, we would like to thank the other six individuals involved for their efforts in preparing thoughtful and respectful campaigns. Each team forced the others to raise the level of their efforts daily, yet no team stepped beyond the limits of decency. To their credit, Paul Crabtree, Bob McGovern, Amanda Mielke, Jaymin Patel, Thankful Stauffer, and Jason Robinson showed a remarkable work ethic that will hopefully continue in the future.

We appreciate the efforts of each student that tried to vote, regardless of which candidates they supported. These individuals went out of their way to practice a privilege that so many often ignore. It was disappointing to see that so many students were unable to submit their votes, and we must ensure that this incident does not repeat itself. Voting is the simplest form of involvement available to us, and it is a right we must not be deprived of.

We thank The Jambar for the encouraging words written about our platform and the endorsement that we were fortunate to receive. We are devoted to meeting the expectations that were

laid out in front of us. Our appreciation is also extended to the students and businesses that supported us. Undeniably, we would not be in this privileged position without their backing.

There is nothing sadder in this life than wasted potential. This campus and its surrounding area are filled with numerous possibilities that we cannot afford to miss out on. During our campaign, students and local companies exhibited an enthusiasm for advancing university life. They are willing to make whatever effort is needed, and we want to assure that these actions are not in vain. We are not presented with obstacles that are easily overcome, but, nonetheless, these feats can be accomplished if we honestly and persistently attack these issues.

Creating a stronger university is not a battle that SGA can fight on our own; we need the efforts and ideas of each student as we attempt to reach this common goal. It will be an honor to serve the students of this institution, and we are thankful for the opportunity to do so.

Angela Maurikis
SGA President-Elect

J.T. Holt
SGA Executive Vice-President-Elect

A kind thank you

Editor:

I just wanted to say thank you to the kind stranger who stopped Friday to help with the accident on Rayen Avenue. He was a guardian angel; he called 911, called my mother and stood by my side until the ambulance came. Others were yelling to get her off the road, like I planned to lie there intentionally. But he offered to stop traffic and stayed there the whole time. I would like to say thank you in person, but I never caught your name. Thanks again from me as well as my family.

Truly grateful,
Milly Aponte

Freshman defends show

Editor:

Mr. Mackey's claim that "The Kids in the Hall" is a funnier sketch comedy show than "Chappelle's Show" is completely ludicrous. I apologize if Mr. Mackey's sense of humor includes watching a gang of zippy, flamboyant Canadians frolicking around dressed in drag, however the majority of Americans probably share different views.

In my opinion, "Chappelle's Show" is and has been one of the funniest half-hours on television

since its debut. The hilarity of the show truly reaches its pinnacle through the Rick James episode, which is why Mr. Mackey so keenly noticed the hordes of fans using the catch phrase. I'll take Chappelle's show over the frolicsome antics of Kids in the Hall any day of the week.

Sincerely,
Rick James, bitch!
a.k.a.
Joe "Blue" Paloski
Freshman
Pre Law

Don't 'equate patriotism with military service'

Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Zimmerman's letter of April 13.

Recently, I found a picture of my 4 brothers and I visiting my grandparents. The year was 1964, and the caption really got my attention this winter. It was the week before my dad first shipped out for Vietnam. He spent much of the next 10 years of the coast there in a battleship. I was 8 years old.

I spent 18 years living in towns where people treated the military very poorly.

Long before there was a Mai Lai massacre, long before some stupid people screamed at returning vets calling them babykillers, long before the yellow ribbons people fly to show how nice they are for supporting our troops. I lived with the discrimination and ugly behavior that many people in this country show our military people even today.

Vietnam killed a lot of our kids. It tore families apart and separated many for a long time. The draft was absolute for most of the people that didn't have daddies or friends to help them get ahead of the line in the Air Reserve.

I was politically involved long before I turned 18 and registered to vote.

Needless to say, I was against the war. That didn't stop me

from selling POW bracelets or volunteering at the Navy Hospital.

We had lots of people in office then who showed us why the public must always be vigilant no matter how "good" a person tells us they are.

J. Edgar Hoover, Joseph McCarthy and Richard M. Nixon were all people that thought they were good people doing the right thing. Because of them, we have laws on the books to protect the public from our officials.

My opinion is that Bush lies. I don't have to prove it because other much more diligent and intelligent people have done that research.

In this country, many people are patriotic and have never worn a uniform or toted a gun. We have the right to vote, laws against child labor, and equal access to education and justice because of those patriots. We have teachers, preachers, firemen, police, and social workers, as well. The list goes on.

To try to equate patriotism with military service is not only wrong-headed, but silly. Many in Bush's cabinet would be out of office if that were a requirement.

Susan Easter
Senior - IT

The Jambar

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Sweet and wife travel on university tab

A JAMBAR INVESTIGATION The SWEET Deal The perks of being the president

By ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar

President David Sweet, often accompanied by his wife, has spent thousands of university dollars traveling across the nation, staying at a hotel that cost \$350 per night and running up \$400 in room service charges.

Between September 2002 and January of this year, David and Pat Sweet spent nearly \$19,000 in university funds traveling to Carlsbad, Calif.; Naples, Fla.; Bridgeport, R.I.; Cleveland, Columbus and other cities.

On at least two occasions, Sweet and his wife extended their business trips by several days for personal vacations. The Sweets paid for their own hotels and meals when they lengthened their stays in Naples and Carlsbad. The university picked up their tab for their flights to those cities.

Sweet said his expenditures have never been questioned in his 34 years of public service and said he has spent university funds wisely.

The university's travel policies for all employees, other than the president, say that the maximum allowable hotel charge is \$75 per night in Ohio but are not defined for out-of-state. Instead, the policies say the university will reimburse the "actual reasonable single room rate" for out-of-state lodging.

Sweet, however, is not forced to

adhere to those regulations and his hotel rooms usually exceeded \$75.

When Pat Sweet accompanied her husband to Naples in November 2002, the couple stayed at the Ritz Carlton, where documents show they had requested "a room with a view." They went to Florida for the three-day annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.



PAT SWEET

In addition to their hotel, which cost \$189 per night, the couple also charged the university for parking at the Pittsburgh Airport and a car rental. The Sweets extended their trip by five days after the conference ended, but did not charge the university for their meals and hotel costs.

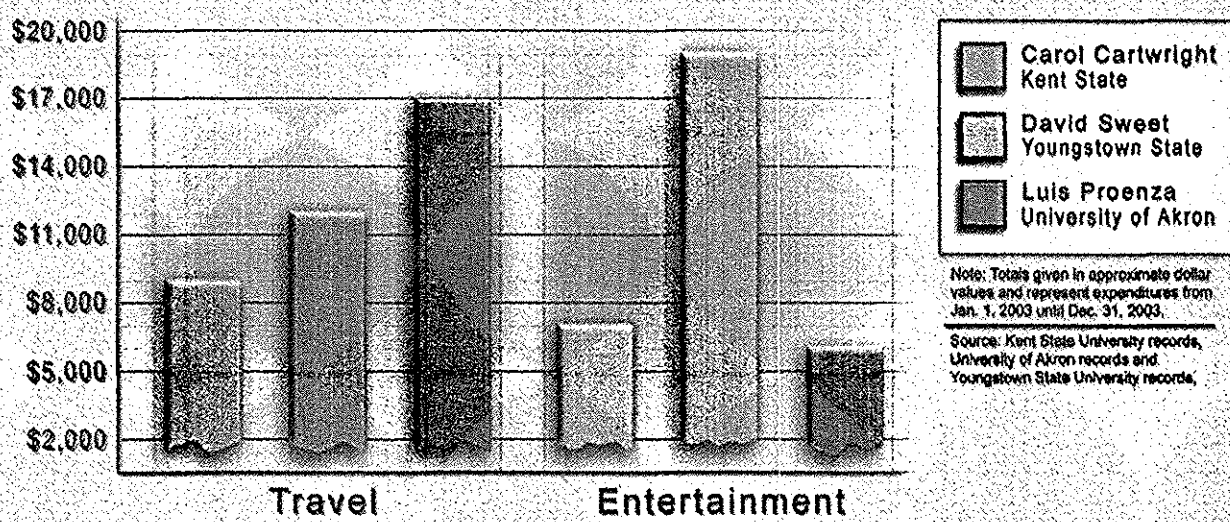
The Florida trip cost the university a total of \$2,456, including the \$990 for both of their flights.

A spokesman for the state auditor said there is no prohibition against extending business trips for personal vacations, but Chris Flagle noted that employees in his office are forbidden from combining business and pleasure.

"You are going where you're going as a result of your employment," Flagle said.

In November 2003, Pat and David Sweet traveled together to Carlsbad, where the university spent \$231 each night for them to stay at the LaCosta

2003 Presidential Expenditures



Legend:
■ Carol Cartwright
Kent State
■ David Sweet
Youngstown State
■ Luis Proenza
University of Akron

Note: Totals given in approximate dollar values and represent expenditures from Jan. 1, 2003 until Dec. 31, 2003.
Source: Kent State University records, University of Akron records and Youngstown State University records.

Resort and Spa for the three-day annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Paying their own hotel and meal expenses, the couple stayed in California for four days after the conference ended. The trip cost the university \$2,734, and the Sweets reimbursed the university \$140 for half of the car they rented, the gas they put in it and the fees for parking their car at the airport.

While at LaCosta, the couple had the university pay for a \$47 breakfast, \$95 dinner as well as \$400 in other food charges.

The Sweets' trip to Rhode Island in July 2003 for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Summer Council of Presidents conference was the most expensive trip analyzed in The Jambar investigation.

That four-day trip cost \$3,076. While in Rhode Island, they stayed at The Newport Marriott for \$357 each

night and had the university pay \$433 for meals.

The first day in Rhode Island, the Sweets had the university pay for a \$12 "snack" at Burger King, a \$30 lunch and a \$120 dinner for the two of them. On their third day, they consumed \$206 in meals charged to the university, including \$16 in alcoholic drinks they had with their dinner at the White Horse Tavern.

The White Horse Tavern dinner included lobster for \$34, chateau briand, a steak, for \$37.50, a Caesar salad for \$14 and alcoholic beverages for \$16. Their bill totaled \$130.61 and included a \$22 tip.

During the couple's travels, several of their meals were not at a restaurant. David and Pat Sweet have spent about \$400 on room service while staying at hotels.

Sweet ordered room service at least 16 times between September 2002 and January of this year, with his most expensive meal — a room service dinner at the Hyatt on Capitol

Square in Columbus in October 2003 — costing the university \$45.

Sweet ordered room service breakfasts for himself at least seven times, with the cheapest breakfast costing the university \$15.69 and the most expensive \$21.53.

Sweet, in a written response to Jambar questions, said he orders room service when he is running late.

In addition to their trips to Florida, California and Rhode Island, David and Pat Sweet have also stayed at hotels closer to home.

On at least two occasions between September 2002 and January of this year the Sweet's stayed overnight in Cleveland when they had dinner events. An Internet map search shows that Cleveland is about one hour and 20 minutes and 74 miles away from Youngstown.

The Sweets traveled to Cleveland in January 2003, to attend a dinner

See EXPENSES, page 2

SWEET, continued from page 1

for a limousine driver to take him to a meeting in Columbus.

In a written response to Jambar questions, Sweet said he has worked within the budget adopted by the Board of Trustees and spent money wisely.

"One approach used in developing support at many universities, including YSU, is hosting dinners, receptions and other social events at the president's residence," Sweet wrote.

Sweet said the success of his strategies can only be measured over time.

"I am proud of the fact that in the past 3.75 years we have raised \$15,396,298 for the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, student scholarships and academic programs," Sweet wrote. "This contrasts with the \$5,123,621 in the four years prior."

But the chair of the YSU Board of Trustees said he believes some follow-up is necessary.

After learning of The Jambar's findings, Dr. Chander Kohli said the board

would have the university's internal auditor investigate its travel policies to ensure that money is being spent properly.

Kohli said auditors would check to see that policies are being followed to "keep the trust of the public."

Kohli said he could not comment whether Sweet has overstepped boundaries on his travel and entertainment expenses.

Sweet also said he believes an internal audit committee will investigate questions raised by The Jambar.

The Jambar's findings drew sharp responses from others including university donors and student leaders who questioned the necessity of some of Sweet's expenditures.

A spokesman for the Ohio State Auditor said Sweet's travel and entertaining costs did not draw any red flags when the university was audited in 2003, but some of Sweet's spending patterns do not appear consistent with those of at least two other Ohio university presidents.

In a recent interview with a Jambar reporter, Sweet said, as a state official for 34 years, his spending habits have never been questioned.

give an edge," Sweet said, adding, "I do not think we are excessive."

But some said Sweet needs to justify how he could be spending funds on such items as flowers, wine and room service at a time when students are being asked to pay \$436 more per year than they are paying this year to attend YSU beginning fall 2005.

"The student isn't the center here at the university," said Emily Eckman, Student Government Association president. Eckman said she was concerned with many of Sweet's expenditures.

Some university donors also challenged how appropriate it is for the university to be using their gifts for alcohol.

"The money that I donated I would rather go to the students," said Leland Ledgerwood who was listed as one of the 632 people who donated funds in the past 17 months without designating how their contributions could be spent. Sweet and all public employees are forbidden from using public funds for any alcohol, according to university and state policies. Sweet, however, has used less than one percent of the money that was donated to the university without special restrictions for purchasing alcohol for dinners at his home and meals that he, his wife and others ate at restaurants.

Chris Flagle, spokesman for the state auditor, cautioned that the practice of using donor money for alcohol could pose problems.

"If they are trying to side-step

What others say about Sweet's spending

— Joseph Nohra, YSU trustee



"I think Sweet has done an excellent job of raising funds."

— Chander Kohli, chair, Board of Trustees.



"(We must make sure policies are being followed) to keep the trust of the public."

— Emily Eckman, SGA president



"The student isn't the center here at the university."

"All of these expenses — it's just excessive and unnecessary. Why is he not being more concerned and frugal with expenses?"

Room service breakfast \$21.53

One night at the Newport Marriott \$357.28

One plate at the Board of Trustees dinner \$46.00

the law by using private funds, it may come to bear in the future," Flagle said.

Some of the donors who have made undesignated contributions to the university said they thought all of the unrestricted funds should be used for scholarships or projects to directly benefit students.

Ledgerwood, who has made multiple contributions to YSU, said he did not know that some of the unrestricted contributions could be used for alcohol. "Sweet is probably getting paid enough money that he can get his own drinks," Ledgerwood said.

Sweet said donors could earmark their future contributions.

One donor, however, said the university could use his money for purchasing alcohol or whatever else officials think is necessary.

"It's OK with me," Dr. W.M. Meikle said. "Do anything you want with it. That's why it's unrestricted."

Flagle also urged that it is important for the Board of Trustees to have up-to-date policies governing Sweet's travel and entertainment expenditures.

Each year, Sweet's contract gives him \$50,000 for his house, \$7,703 for his car and

the board purchases a \$500,000 life insurance policy. In addition, the university pays for his membership at the Youngstown Country Club and he is reimbursed for all "reasonable cost of entertainment, travel and related expenses."

Sweet's contract also states that the university will reimburse expenses incurred by Pat Sweet when traveling with her husband when it is "reasonably appropriate or necessary to advance the interests of the university." In addition to questioning the money Sweet has spent on alcohol, others said they took issue with the amount of money Sweet spent on meals and flowers to entertain at his home.

"All of these expenses — it's just excessive and unnecessary," Eckman said. "Why is he not being more concerned and frugal with expenses?"

YSU Student Board of Trustee member Matthew Pastier in an e-mail to a Jambar reporter also said he had questions with some of Sweet's expenditures. Pastier said some of The Jambar's findings "raised concerns" that he would ask Sweet about directly in a meeting this week.

Sweet's spending practices vary from his counterparts at Kent State University and the University of Akron which both have nearly twice the enrollment as YSU.

KSU President Carol Cartwright charged her university for a little more than \$9,000 for her 2003 travels —

about 20 percent less than what Sweet spent during the same time. Cartwright spent \$7,000 entertaining guests at her home, 63 percent less than the \$19,000 that Sweet spent during the same time.

Akron President Luis Proenza spent more than \$17,000 traveling in 2003 — about 33 percent more than Sweet spent during the same period. Proenza, however, spent about \$6,000 for entertaining guests — about 68 percent less than Sweet's \$19,000.

Sweet said he knows his entertainment expenses are not out-of-line with others in his position.

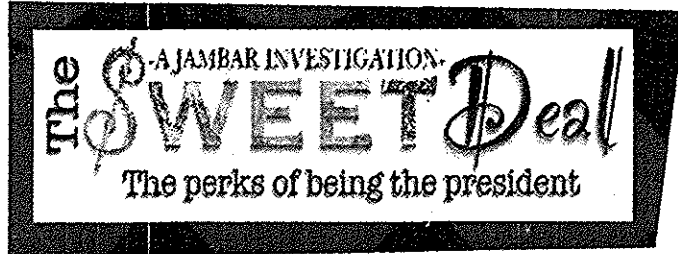
"I've been to many a president's home; the dining we provide is in range appropriately," Sweet said.

Others agreed with Sweet's assessment of how he has used university funds.

"I support 100 percent, I support the development functions," Joseph Nohra, a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, said. "I think Sweet has done an excellent job of raising funds."

Call Angela Olin at (330) 941-1991.

President wines and dines houseguests



BY ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar

The menu with which David and Pat Sweet entertain dinner guests at their Liberty Township home has included five-course meals, \$28 bottles of wine and delicacies such as asparagus rolls, olive balls, tenderloin medallions, grilled shrimp and cream of watercress soup.

University President David Sweet has spent \$35,801 of university and private donor funds wining and dining people at his home between September 2002 and January of this year. He has spent an additional \$2,011 for flowers from Something New Florist in Canfield for his home for those events.

Sweet said the expenditures were for cultivating support for the university.

"One approach used in developing support at many universities, including YSU, is hosting dinners, receptions and other social events at the president's residence," Sweet said in a written response to questions from The Jambar.

"Invited guests may include current and prospective donors, alumni, public officials or individuals who can introduce us to potential supporters," Sweet wrote.

Other university presidents, including Kent State University President Carol Cartwright and University of Akron President Luis Proenza also entertain people at their homes.

"Invited guests may include current and prospective donors, alumni, public officials or individuals who can introduce us to potential supporters."

DAVID SWEET
University President

Both Proenza and Cartwright, whose universities have nearly twice the number of students as YSU, spent less entertaining guests at their homes.

Sweet, who receives a \$50,000 annual housing allowance and whose contract states he will be reimbursed for all "reasonable cost of entertainment," said the YSU Board of Trustees expects him to entertain.

"The president's residence has been used to host individuals working on academic programs or grant funding requests, as well as faculty, staff and student leaders," Sweet wrote. "In part, this is why the YSU Board of Trustees provides a housing allowance."

YSU Food Services has performed the catering for the meals at the Sweet home, supplying the university with itemized receipts that Sweet's office released to The Jambar as part of a public records request.

The single most expensive per-person dinner at the Sweet home was a Dec. 4, 2003, affair for university trustees. The food cost for the 14 guests totaled \$643 — \$46 per person. An additional \$195 was spent for flowers for this dinner.

The Jambar asked trustees to comment about the necessity of such dinners. Chairman Chander Kohli refused to



HOME SWEET HOME: David and Pat Sweet have hosted hundreds of people at their home on Fairway Drive in Liberty Township. The university has paid over \$34,000 in food and service costs for entertaining.

Angela Olin / The Jambar

answer specific questions and said the university's internal auditor would be reviewing expenditures.

On Feb. 7, 2003, the Sweets hosted eight guests for dinner and ordered 12 bottles of wine that cost \$184. In addition to the wine, the other costs of the evening included food at \$330 — or \$33 per person — and flowers at \$76.

The menu included hors d'oeuvres of asparagus rolls, olive cheese balls, French onion soup made by Pat Sweet, a mixed greens salad with strawberry vinaigrette and dry blue cheese, beef burgundy, petite browned potatoes, fresh green beans seasoned, rolls and bread and a lemon angel food cake that Pat Sweet made.

The Sweets also hosted several events in conjunction with YSU football.

On Nov. 2, 2002, the couple invited 18 guests to their home for dinner after the homecoming game. The cost to the university was \$360, or \$20 per person.

Likewise, on Nov. 15, 2003, Sweet and his wife had dinner for 16 guests after the football game, charging the university \$239, or \$14.95 per person.

"To compete effectively in the fundraising environment, I think we need these kinds of investment and kinds of hospitality," Sweet said.

Call Angela Olin at (330) 941-1991.

Alcohol purchased with money from university donors

BY ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar

State regulations bar public money from being used for purchasing alcohol, but University President David Sweet has avoided the regulation by paying for his wine and drinks with funds from private university donors.

A four-month investigation of Sweet's expenditures shows that between September 2002 and January of this year, Sweet spent \$1,588 on alcohol for himself, his wife, colleagues and what he said were potential university donors.

The alcohol was charged to a special account maintained and funded by university donors — a practice that has drawn criticism and questions from some contributors.

"I don't feel very good about that," said Peter Storey, one of 632 people who gave the university contributions in the past year that were designated as "unrestricted." A small portion of those funds, less than one percent, was used to cover the alcohol.

Storey, who identified himself as a "small" donor, said he would earmark where all of his future YSU contributions were to be spent.

Sweet said he does not see problems with purchasing alcohol for events and that donors could restrict future contributions.

"The serving of alcohol in moderation is an accepted practice in the hosting of events," Sweet said.

Chris Flagle, a spokesman for State Auditor Betty Montgomery, said the practice of using private donations to purchase alcohol is not prohibited but it is an unclear area of the law.

"When working with private funds from businesses or whatever, it's a little bit trickier," Flagle said.

Flagle, however, said the law is clear about public funds and alcohol. He said when using public funds for hosting events, "the purchase of alcohol is not appropriate."

Flagle said the bigger problems for the university might come from public perception of what is appropriate.

"Like anyone in a public forum, if the private benefactors don't feel those are warranted, you will have to answer to the private benefactors," he said.

The comments of several donors indicate that Flagle's concerns could have merit.

"If I knew that's what it was being used for I wouldn't have marked it unrestricted," said Jack Sommerlad, a donor who said he normally earmarks his contributions for athletics or the jazz program.

Frank Barile, another donor who allowed his contributions to remain unrestricted, said he did not agree with the university's practice of using some of those funds to purchase alcohol.

"The contributions should help students," Barile said.

Others, however, said the university and Sweet should make the decisions about how to spend their donations.

University Director of Recycling Jim Petuch said he does not object to his donations being used for alcohol.

"In order to advance the university, sometimes you have to involve alcohol into those social events," Petuch said. "It's part of the job."

Lucile Bartelmay, who has also donated funds to YSU in the past year, said the university could use her contributions for anything officials think is necessary to benefit YSU.

"Whatever they choose to use them for is fine with me," Bartelmay said.

The state auditor's office raises no objections to the practice of using donor money for alcohol.

In their most recent examination of YSU, Flagle said state auditor employees did not notice any problems with how funds were being spent. He, however, said public bodies must adhere to high standards.

"If they are trying to side-step the law by using private funds, it may come to bear in the future," Flagle said.

Much of the money Sweet has spent on alcohol was used to purchase wine for dinners at his home. However, on several occasions, he and his wife, Pat, have had alcoholic drinks with their dinners that were paid for by university donors. In the months examined, they have charged those donors \$78 for their own drinks.

When Sweet and his wife traveled to Rhode Island in July 2003, for instance, they dined at the White Horse Tavern and ordered one Absolut vodka for \$5.50 and two Beefeater gin cocktails for \$10.50. The couple's total bill for their dinner at the White Horse Tavern came to \$109.

In another instance, Sweet and his wife were attending an American Association of State Colleges and Universities conference in Carlsbad, Calif., when they spent \$114 on a dinner that included two Beefeater gin cocktails for \$12 and a glass of Chardonnay for \$6.50.

Sweet also used university donor funds for several O'Doul's beers, a classic martini and a Tangueray.

YSU-Ohio Education Association President Michael Finney said when Sweet orders alcoholic drinks at restaurants — either while trav-

eling or during a business-related dinner — he should pick up his own tab.

"Sweet should be held as other employees," Finney said. "Absolutely, he should pay for his own alcohol because we have to."

Sweet said he does not believe that he and his wife have spent too much money on alcohol for themselves. He added that a large portion of his job is to entertain current and prospective donors and most of the dinners and receptions at his Liberty Township home included alcohol.

Sweet used university donor's money to purchase 118 bottles of wine and three cases of beer costing \$1,510. Sweet said the alcohol was consumed at various functions at his home.

Sweet commonly purchased cases of Toasted Head Chardonnay and Toasted Head Merlot that varied in cost from \$19 a bottle for the Merlot to \$15 for the Chardonnay.

The most expensive wine that Sweet had university donors pay for were two bottles of Caymus Conundrum at \$28 each. The wine was bought for a

November 2003 dinner with Jackie Brauningner who won a Youngstown Symphony Society auction dinner with the Sweets. In addition to the two bottles of Caymus Conundrum, Sweet also had donors pay for two bottles of Louis Mantini Napa Valley Cabernet at \$20 each for the same dinner with Brauningner and five other guests.

The least expensive were \$7 bottles of Turning Leaf White Zinfandel served for a December 2003 reception David and Pat Sweet hosted for some university employees. The other wine that records say donors bought for that function were 12 bottles of Blackstone Cabernet at \$10 each and six bottles of Estancia Chardonnay also at \$10 each.

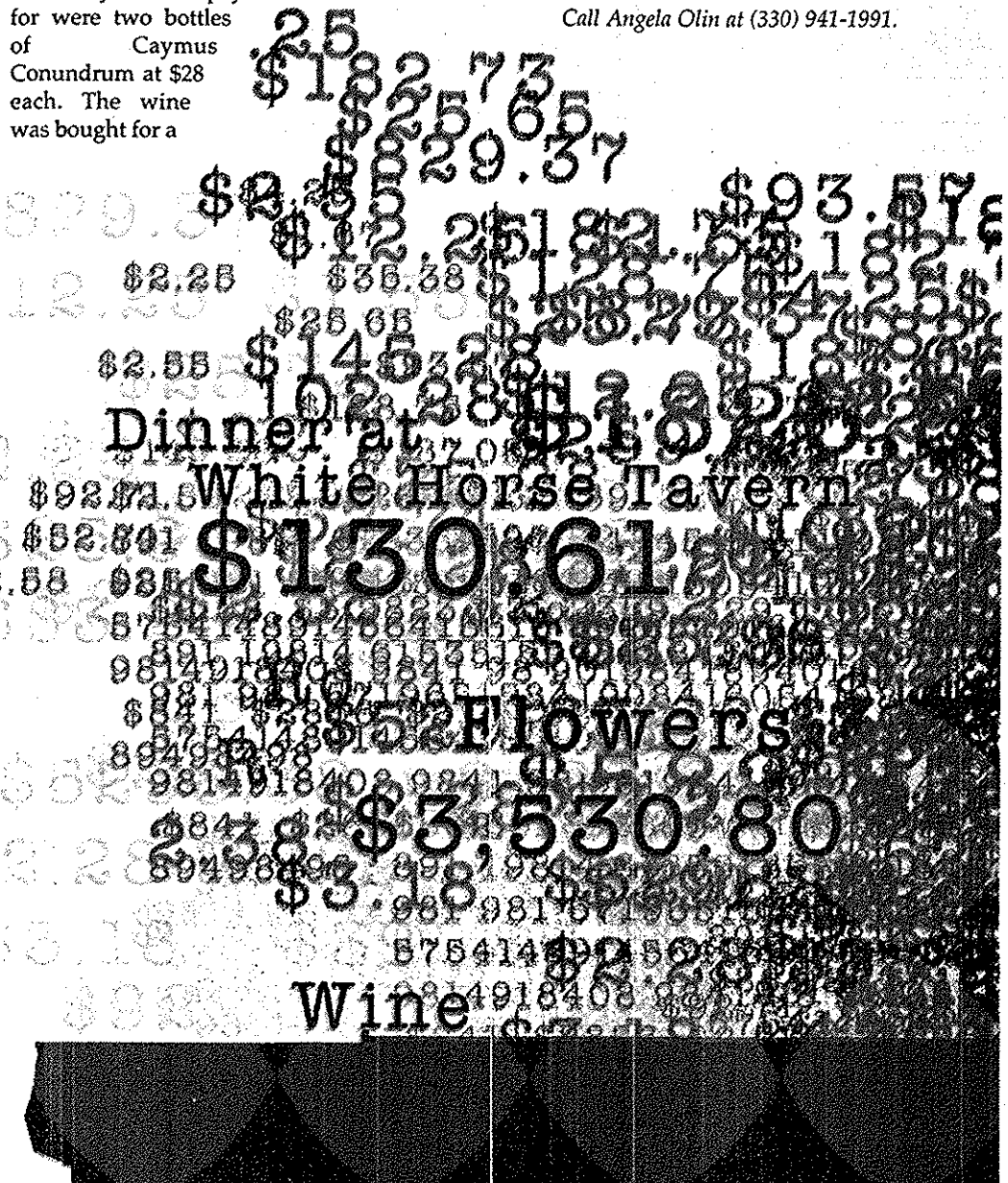
Finney said he understands the need for alcohol at functions at the Sweet residence.

"I certainly don't object to alcohol," Finney said. "If you're going for donations, I guess it's a good idea to get them a little sloshed."

Call Angela Olin at (330) 941-1991.



SWEET



SPORTS & RECREATION

Softball

YSU picks up league victories

By JOSHUA BOGGS
The Jambar

After a hard-fought loss to Horizon League-foe Cleveland State on Wednesday, the Youngstown State University softball team capitalized on numerous mistakes by their opponents to pick up two more Horizon League victories against Wright State on Saturday.

The Penguins picked up 1-0 and 5-1 wins to sweep the Wright State Raiders (12-27, 2-8) after dropping a narrow 2-1 contest to the Cleveland State Vikings (13-18, 6-3).

With the doubleheader wins, YSU moved to 20-12 overall this spring and 4-2 in Horizon League play.

Head softball coach Christy Cameron said that her team would continue to have a prosperous season as long as they keep working hard.

"I think that as long as we continue to play hard and execute, we should continue with our success," Cameron said.

Despite superb pitching performances from sophomore Kelly Murphy, the Penguins again had trouble driving in runs and left seven runners stranded on base against the Vikings on their way to their 12th loss this season.

Cameron confessed that leaving runners on base is an area that her squad is trying to improve upon.

"When we are getting runners on base, we need to try and drive in those runs," Cameron said. "If we do it consistently, it will do nothing but help our cause. We just need to do that on a consistent basis."

Murphy, who is 8-7 this spring, knocked off the

"You take the games you lose and use them as a learning experience."



—CHRISTY CAMERON
YSU softball head coach

Vikings' first 14 batters and gave up just two hits during the course of the game.

Cleveland State scored first when the Vikings' Shannon Graves scored on an unearned run for a 1-0 lead in the fifth inning.

YSU answered back in the sixth inning when sophomore Tiffany Pateson scored on an unearned run of her own.

The Vikings had a retaliation of their own in the bottom of the sixth when CSU's Michelle Nicholas scored on a groundout to give her team a 2-1 lead and the eventual victory.

The Penguins looked to swing momentum back in their favor on Saturday with a doubleheader against the Raiders.

Momentum was found through the YSU pitching staff rather than their bats in their first game of the series.

Murphy was again impressive from the mound, as the sophomore gave up just two hits and struck out eight Raiders to pick up her sixth shutout and ninth win of the season.

Cameron said that she believes in the philosophy that solid performances from the mound will override good hitting against opponents and also said that her team uses

each game as a learning experience.

"You take the games you lose and use them as a learning experience," Cameron said. "We didn't win some games so now we take what we can get from that."

In the opener, the Penguins scored the game's only run in the bottom of the seventh when sophomore Lacy Bronson scored on a wild pitch to give the Penguins the victory.

In the second game of the doubleheader, YSU capitalized on five Wright State errors as the Penguins moved to their 20th victory this season, 5-1.

Penguin freshman pitcher Karlie Burnell scattered just 10 runs and had six strikeouts to up her record to 7-3 this spring. YSU had an early 3-0 lead after two innings and gathered two more unearned runs in the fourth to seal the win.

With the end of the season approaching, Cameron said that continuing to learn from needless mistakes and winning the Horizon League are two of the things her team is striving for now.

"Driving in those runs and continuing to learn from those mistakes is our short term goal, but ultimately our goal is to become a better team and to win the Horizon League," Cameron said.

The Penguins will continue action Tuesday when they travel to Moon Township, Pa. to square off with Robert Morris in a doubleheader with first pitch at 8 p.m.

Call Joshua Boggs at (330) 941-1989.

CENTER, continued from page 1

Beeghly Center, setting a festive tone for the event as trustees and administrators took their place at the front of the room.

Two dirt-filled wooden troughs stood next to the podium. Gold shovels embossed with the words "Andrews Wellness and Recreation groundbreaking, April 19, 2004" were stuck in the dirt, and blue prints surrounded them.

Spectators listened as YSU's Chief Development Officer Paul McFadden, University President David Sweet, Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center Campaign co-chairs Douglas McKay and Gregory Ridler, Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center director Jack Rigney and student committee chairwoman Carla Macali spoke at the event.

McFadden thanked community benefactors, the YSU Board of Trustees and the student committee that worked to create the recreation and wellness center. He explained that the dedication of those in the YSU community has made possible the construction of the \$12.1 million facility set to open fall 2005.

"This is a symbol of the commitment of the people of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley," McFadden said.

Sweet spoke of the same commitment as he described the struggle of the students to bring forth the plans for the recreation center.

"The students were the driving force behind the effort," Sweet said. "It was their dream."

Sweet also reminded the audience that the university is still just short of their funding goal for the university, saying that individuals "can't lose sight of the funding gap."

Currently, the campaign has raised \$11.47 million from approximately 530 benefactors contributing private funds for the recreation center.

The donation of \$2 million came from the John S. and Doris M. Andrews trust fund, the namesakes of the recreation center.

Ridler spoke on the history of the center's namesakes.

Ridler said the Andrews were pillars of business and charity in the Youngstown community and significant contributors to the growth of YSU.

"John and Doris realized the importance of the university not only on its students, but on the entire Mahoning Valley," Ridler said. "That is what makes this groundbreaking all the more special."

Looking down on the ceremony from a stairway, Human Performance and Exercise Science Professor Gordon Longmuir smiled on the buzzing activity on the floor below.

Longmuir spoke of the benefits that he saw for the students, such as keeping them full of activity and adding more activities within the university. He also said it is an accomplishment that the university should be proud of.

"People laughed and thought this would never happen and here we are," Longmuir said.

Vice President of Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson said the center is the result of the dedication of a few students.

"This student committee is one of the most active I've ever had the privilege to work with," Anderson said. "They've set a great example of setting students' sights high."

Student committee member Melissa Nero said the project is overdue and she is glad the university would finally be providing students with a place where they can exercise and have fun with their friends.

Sophomore Crystal Duncan agreed and said the groundbreaking marked the beginning of something that would bring the entire Mahoning Valley together.

"It's such a good, positive thing," Duncan said. "It will bring YSU great publicity and will really unite the campus and the community for the better."

Call Christina Poe at (330) 941-3523.
Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-1989.

EVENT, continued from page 1

the overnight event, 25 teams walked Beeghly Center's indoor track to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The \$55,000 raised topped the goal that coordinators had set for this year's relay.

Al Stabilito, Eastern Ohio communications and advocacy director for the American Cancer Society, said the Youngstown relay's goal for this year was an increase of \$27,000 over last year's goal of \$28,000.

"Out of every dollar, 78 cents is used to help cancer patients or reduce incidence and deaths," he said.

Event coordinators were also pleased by the amount of local support they were given.

Debbie Moy, captain of the Pete and Penny team, said many local companies donated raffle items. Moy also received personalized items from teams and organizations from outside of the area.

The Pete and Penny team raffled off baskets containing items such as signed footballs donated from the Cleveland Browns, Ohio State and YSU football teams. The members of the Friends Against Cancer Team (FACT) were eagerly awaiting the opportunity to win many of the contests that were held this year. The FACT team's cancer slogan was "Wave Goodbye to Cancer," and their tent was decorated with a sea theme. The FACT team joined many of the groups in raising over \$2,500 each for cancer research.

The co-chairs for the Youngstown relay were Marilyn Ward and Marie Cullen. Ward said one of the goals this year was to make the event more known to those on campus. Some of the entertainment included the band GoldieRox, a scavenger hunt and the Miss Relay contest, where men dressed in women's formal wear.

"It really is a good time," Ward said. Stabilito, who lost his mother to cancer six years ago, said the event is enjoyable and highly emotional. The most emotional part of the relay, he said, is usually the Luminary ceremony, where candles are lit in remembrance.

"It's a great way to honor the survivors, caretakers, and family members as well as those who have lost the battle to cancer, while supporting the search for a cure," he said. Dan Emery joined the relay in support of his wife, Helen, an eight-year cancer survivor.

"Most everyone has been affected by cancer in some way," Dan Emery said, his eyes watering as he watched his wife walk the relay's survivor lap.

Amy Elias, an 81-year-old cancer survivor, said she enjoys attending the relay because she likes to watch and participate in the different events held during the day. She laughed as she said she would not be participating in the new 4 a.m. frozen T-Shirt contest.

"It's a community event like this that let's me know I'm not alone," Elias said.

Tracey Brown, a junior at YSU said, "I was surprised at how many people I talk to on campus everyday and didn't even know they had cancer."

The American Cancer Society website, has information on future Relay For Life events within the tri-county area.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

YSU LATIN ARTS EXPLOSION!

Latin Culture took over campus last weekend.



Chuck Rogers / The Jambar

BY CHUCK ROGERS
The Jambar

Nachito Herrera said there are only two kinds of music: good music and bad music. If cheers and applause are an indicator, he must be playing the good stuff.

The audience yipped and howled as Herrera's fingers danced across the piano keyboard Friday, pounding out traditional Cuban rhythms and his own Latin-jazz fusion tunes.

Herrera and his band, Puro Cubano, played in concert and held a workshop Friday in Bliss Hall. They were the guest artists of the Latin Arts Explosion, a two-day festival of Hispanic music, dance and visual art.

The series of events, held Friday and Saturday, was hosted by YSU and the Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana (OCCHA). The Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Latino Arts Association (OLAA) and the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) also participated in the event.

Latin Arts Explosion is an outgrowth of YSU's annual Cuban Arts Festival, first held in 2001. Michele Lepore-Hagen, performing arts series director, said the university teamed up with OCCHA to make the program more accessible to the local Hispanic community.

OCCHA is a social service organization that focuses on Hispanic social, economic, educational and cultural needs in Mahoning County. Director Mary Isa Garayua said the event is a great opportunity to present Hispanic culture through art and music and let people "know our culture and our diversity."

Latin Arts Explosion included music and dance performances, workshops, and conferences for OLAA and NALAC. A Latin Dinner was held Friday night at Stambaugh Auditorium, with a concert by Herrera and dancing to the music of Sabor Latino.

Music is only half the story

The crowd that clapped and tapped their feet to Herrera's music also sat in rapt attention as he explained his music and the fulfillment of his dreams.

Herrera is a stocky man; not fat, but big, with thick fingers that belie their quickness and agility. At first, he seemed a little self-conscious about his thickly-accented English, asking the audience's indulgence. But as he settled in to his story and his music, neither he nor the audience seemed to take further notice.

He explained how Cuban music almost lost Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera to Bach and Beethoven.

"I thought to become one of the most famous classical pianists in the world," Herrera said of his teenage dream. From the age of 5, when he started learning the piano, all he played was classical music.

When he was 12 years old, he performed Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2

with the Havana Symphony Orchestra. He said he wasn't interested at all in the Cuban traditional music his father played.

But when he was 18 years old, Herrera said he listened again to his father's band and decided he wanted to know everything about Cuban music.

He got the help of some famous teachers, including Reuben Gonzalez of Buena Vista Social Club, and received his master's degree from the Superior Institute of Art in Havana. After playing with state-sponsored orchestras in Cuba, he joined Cubanismo and recorded two albums with them, eventually becoming their musical director.

Membership in the popular Cuban band gave him the chance to tour in the United States, and to eventually settle in Minnesota.

He now lives in Minneapolis, teaching piano at the McPhail Center for the Arts and performing with Puro Cubano.

Herrero beamed as he described the fulfillment he said he feels now.

"This thing that has happened in my life," he said, "is part of my dream."

Herrera's band mates, bassist Terry Burns, drummer Gordy Knutson, and percussionist Shai Hayo took turns making wisecracks and commenting on their music and on Herrera's musical prowess.

Burns said other piano players don't stack up to Herrera. "It's hard to listen to other piano players," he said, "You want to say 'Yeah, buddy, try it again.'"

Burns said that Herrera's compositions are some of the hardest music he's ever had to play.

He demonstrated that by playing the bass line to a song he wrote called "Ponderosa." After playing his original, slow moving version he frantically played the complex, syncopated version that Herrera wrote.

Next week, Herrera gets to fulfill two more of his dreams. He and his family will receive their U.S. residency permits, and Puro Cubano will cut their second album.

The art of being Hispanic

Latin Arts Explosion brought local and regional artists, such as Raymond Escribano from Youngstown and Wilfredo Calvo Bono from Columbus, to exhibit their paintings for the event.

Calvo Bono's environmentally-conscious works were shown Friday and Saturday at the Bliss Hall gallery in an exhibit called "The Bad, The Sad, and The Ugly, A Study on Social Pollutants."

The Cuban artist, whose other exhibits have included geometric abstractions, said this exhibit deals with material and non-material pollution. One of his works features billowing black smoke rising from the cooling towers of a nuclear power plant. The smoke coalesces into human skulls, reflecting the dangers associated with radioactive pollution. Another features a snake, which, he said, represents politicians.

The lone, withered tree in "Planet Earth, Year 2500" is a representation of what may happen to the planet if humanity doesn't change its ways.

Calvo Bono said he wants people to sit alone with his work and contemplate.

"I use paintings as a way to make people think," the artist said, "about problems that affect our lives."

Raymond Escribano said the memories of growing up in Puerto Rico are still vivid in mind. His paintings reflect those memories in equally vivid and colorful representations of 1960's daily life on his island home.

His work was displayed Saturday in the OCCHA Center at 3600 Shirley

Road in Youngstown during the second day of the arts festival. It was the artist's first-ever exhibition.

Escribano said "Remembrance," a canvas of about 2 and one-half by 5 feet, is his recollection of a typical small Puerto Rican town. Shops and street vendors proclaim their wares with signs bearing brands seldom seen outside of the commonwealth.

On one side of the street, a man sits on the curb drinking from a bottle outside a bar. On the other side, a seated musician plays a cuatro, a four-stringed guitar.

The instrument is special to Escribano because of another of his memories; his grandfather was a cuatro-maker.

He peppers his paintings with uniquely Puerto Rican symbols like the cuatro, the Flamboyán, a red flowering tree, and the coqui, a tiny yellow frog native to the island.

All of them are used in a mixed-media work entitled "Cuatro." The wire-strung wooden neck of the instrument projects vertically above the canvas. The body, cut into segments attached to the canvas, is decorated with the tree and the frog. A symbol of the Taino Indians indigenous to Puerto Rico is placed in the guitar's sound hole.

More than just the Chachacha

Karol Marchevsky, OLAA board member, said, "Latin American culture is a patchwork quilt that is woven together with the Spanish language." In music and dance, however, the nationalities are decidedly diverse. They vary from country to country even differ in each of Mexico's 32 states.

El Corazón de México and Grupo Peruano are two of the dance groups that performed a variety of regional Latin dances at the Saturday morning session at OCCHA.

The rustle of a multitude of skirts drifted across OCCHA's main hall, as the elaborate, colorful costumes swirled with the dancers' spins and curtsies. Each of El Corazón de México dances was accompanied by a costume change and preceded by the announcement of its state of origin.

Grupo Peruano then performed Peruvian dances wearing traditional costumes. Their announcer, YSU freshman Shannon Street, explained the regional origins and music for each dance.

Street said she was chosen for the part because she knows Spanish and because her Peruvian boyfriend is involved with the group. Because of him, she said, she has learned a lot about the local Hispanic community.

"Youngstown is a lot more diverse than I realized," she said. "There are groups here from every country."

After the performers were done, it was time for the amateurs to hit the floor. Two Latin dance workshops were held under the expert tutelage of James Lepore, an associate professor of dance at George Mason University and perennial participant in all of the past Cuban Arts Festivals.

About 40 people attended the first dance workshop. Lepore began by explaining how Salsa originated, in part, from the Cuban Son (rhymes with phone) rhythm. Son, he said, was derived from some of the sacred dances of the Santería religion in Cuba.

Then the music started. At first people stiffly imitated Lepore as he demonstrated some dance steps. They self-consciously looked at their feet and their neighbors for a while, appearing to take stock of the other's skill.

But by the second song, the dancers' hips swayed and their shoulders shook to the Mambo beat. An hour later the workshop was over, but the dance was still going strong.

FESTIVAL: YSU and the Organización Cívica y Cultural Hispana Americana held the Latin Arts Explosion Friday on and off campus.

