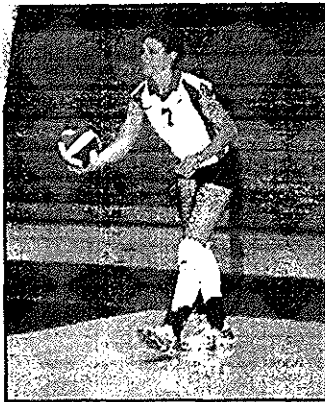


the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 23 The student voice of Youngstown State University

Weather >> mostly sunny
 66 | 44
 Wednesday: rain, 70/41
 Thursday: p. cloudy, 62/45

Inside



▲ YSU spikers finally return home after long road trip.

Sports I
 see page 5



▲ Art on the moon.

Entertainment I
 see page 6

In Brief

Wendy Lamb to be LYRE Center Guest

Wendy Lamb of Wendy Lamb Books will give a presentation entitled "Censorship and Literature for Young Readers" today in the Kilcawley Art Gallery from 4:15 to 5:15 PM.

Economics Club to meet Thursday

The Economics Club will have an organizational meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20th at 3:30 PM in DeBartolo Hall Room 358. All YSU students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. Youngstown Director of Economic Development Jeff L. Chagnot will give a presentation entitled "Economic Development in Youngstown" at this meeting.

Historian to give speech on uprising

Author Stephen Lynd will present "Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising" in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center tonight at 7 p.m. The presentation will explore the reasons for a prison uprising in 1993 at a maximum-security prison in Ohio. The speaker is sponsored by the Dr. James Dale Ethics Center at YSU.

the jambar poll question

Last question

Do you take advantage of YSU's tutoring services?

18% YES 82% NO

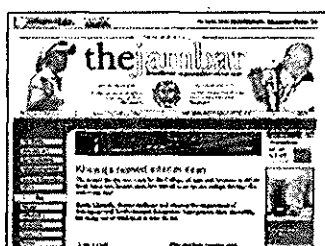
Today's Question

Do you feel the need for a college students' Bill of Rights?

vote online @ www.thejambar.com

INTODAY'S JAMBAR

- ▶ Classified | 2
- ▶ Entertainment | 6
- ▶ Opinion | 3
- ▶ Sports | 5



Online: thejambar.com
 thejambar@gmail.com

YSU

Students to get 'Bill of Rights'

By: Bill Rodgers
 NEWS EDITOR

A resolution, which some say protect students from the opinions of their professors, was endorsed by the Inter-University Council of Ohio at a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Youngstown State University is among those on the IUC.

The resolution is a compromise of Senate Bill 24, which was championed earlier this year by State Sen. Larry Mumper (R-Marion) as an Academic Bill of Rights for students. Mumper said in February the legislation was necessary to keep students from being "indoctrinated" into the opinions held by their professors.

The bill drew criticism from YSU faculty who said the bill would limit free speech and their ability to teach students effectively.

The resolution begins by saying that public universities should value and respect the diversity of ideas and that "neither students nor faculty should be evaluated on the basis of their political opinions." It reads that anyone who felt he or she has been treated unfairly should have access to a grievance process. It calls for each university to review its stu-



MUMPER

dents' rights and grievance procedures with respect to fostering diversity in the classroom.

The resolution declares that Ohio universities should welcome "intellectual pluralism and the free exchange of ideas." The resolution calls for debate between differing issues about which some individuals would disagree.

The debate issue in the resolution differs from the language of S.B. 24, which declared that professors should make students aware of serious scholarly opinion other than their own. The resolution declared that not all ideas have equal scholarly merit; what's admissible for the classroom must be evaluated by the

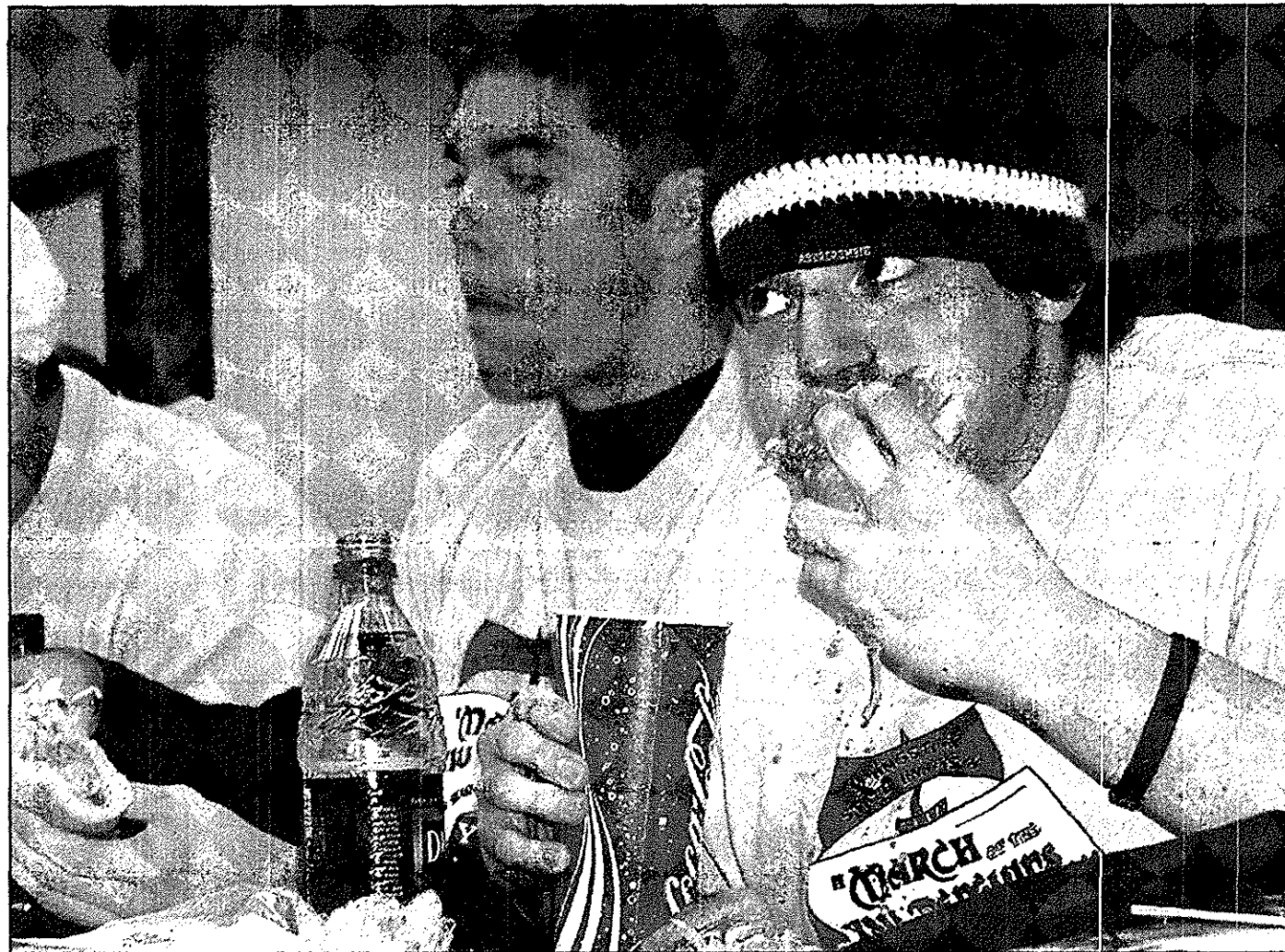
standards of academic profession established by the community of scholars at each university.

Furthermore, the resolution declares that "policies that protect students' rights should not cast doubt on professors' academic freedom." Instead of having every university in Ohio governed by policies set forth in a law, the resolution declares that it's up to each of the universities to create policies that respect the rights of members of the university community.

Mumper said that the original legislation was a little stricter than the resolution IUC adopted, but it was probably the way the issue should

please see RESOLUTION, Page 4

Substantial meal



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

Junior Anthony Churchiglia scarfs down a sandwich during a sub eating contest Monday in Kilcawley Center. Churchiglia defeated nine other opponents in a competitive eating race that was part of Youngstown State University's Homecoming Week activities. There will be a pizza eating contest today, a roast beef eating contest on Wednesday and a chicken wing eating contest on Thursday. The YSU football team will take on Missouri State Saturday for the Homecoming Game.

YSU

Rock in a hard place

By: Cheryl Thompson
 REPORTER

Worried that people might slip and fall when the sidewalk around Youngstown State University's painted rock gets a fresh coat, YSU's Safety Committee sent a letter last week to the Student Government Association expressing safety concerns.

Although Sandra Denman, director of environmental and occupational health and safety at YSU, said there were no injuries directly related to sidewalk painting reported in last two years, it doesn't mean they haven't happened.

"A lot of the incidents go unreported, students aren't very likely to report

please see ROCK, Page 4

OHIO

Groups battle over Ohio ballot issues

By: Bill Rodgers
 NEWS EDITOR

A series of reforms proposed by the group Reform Ohio Now (RON) will be on the ballot in November. The group has been under attack by a competing group, Ohio First, Inc. which is a voter education group that opposes the four reforms. Youngstown Mayor George M. McKelvey was recently named a co-chairman of Ohio First.

RON, a bipartisan group, proposed the four ballot issues to create what they believe would be more competitive and fair elections in Ohio.

"These reforms propose to create competitive elections. Under the current system, the party in power draws its district to create lopsided and safe seats for candidates. Our reforms take the politics out of it and create competition in the elections process. We believe if politicians have to

work to earn their seats, they'll be more responsive to their constituents," spokesperson Keary McCarthy said of the ballot initiatives.

The reforms are:

- Issue 2: Ohioans would be able to cast mail-in absentee ballots without giving a reason.
- Issue 3: Limits campaign contributions to \$2,000 for a statewide candidate and \$1,000 for a legislative candidate.
- Issue 4: Puts an independent commission in charge of drawing state and congressional districts based on competitiveness and communities of interest
- Issue 5: Creates a bipartisan state panel to oversee Ohio's voting system, taking the duty away from the secretary of state.

Issue 2

McCarthy said that issue two would allow more people to participate in voting during the election by elim-

please see REFORM, Page 2

WYSU PLEDGE DRIVE

'Donor fatigue' might be hampering WYSU drive

By: Leonard Glenn Crist
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

In the midst of WYSU-FM's semi-annual pledge drive, Dave Luscher, the station's associate director, said he is concerned, but not worried, that "donor fatigue" stemming from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the recent earthquake in Pakistan might affect listener donations.

"It's been some years since we haven't met the [station's pledge] goal," Luscher said. But, he added, "I think there is a donor fatigue going on right now."

Charitable giving levels in the United

States do not vary much from year to year, but the charities on the receiving end can vary significantly, according to Sandra Miniutti of the national charity evaluator Charity Navigator. Americans have already donated \$4 billion for disaster relief efforts this year, so other non-profit organizations, such as shelters, after-school programs and public radio stations, are bracing themselves for a decline in giving. Donors' piggybanks may simply be tapped out.

Still, at WYSU, directors are hoping for the best. The station has set an \$87,500 goal for the five-day pledge drive — \$2,500

please see WYSU, Page 2

YSU / MATHFEST

Seven win five awards at MathFest

By: Adrienne Sabo
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Seven math students from Youngstown State University attended this year's MathFest and won a record five awards. MathFest is the annual meeting for the Mathematical Association of America and Pi Mu Epsilon, a national mathematics hon-

ors society.

"I wish everyone had the opportunity to see the high regard in which our students are held by the mathematicians who attend MathFest," Doug Faires, a faculty advisor for Pi Mu Epsilon, said.

Pi Mu Epsilon is an honorary national mathematics society with more than 300 chapters that promotes

scholarly activity in mathematics, according to the YSU chapter website.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for students and faculty to share mathematics research and findings. MathFest was held in August in Albuquerque, NM.

Nicole Casacchia, David Gohlke, Joseph Kolenick,

please see MATH, Page 2

MATH, continued from page 1

David Martin, Maria Salcedo, Thomas Cochran and Ted Stadnick attended MathFest. The group set a record this year for the most awards won by a single university at MathFest.

More than 1,000 students attended the three-day event, which included guest speakers and student presentations. Students made presentations and the top 15 percent of those were awarded.

Five YSU students won awards during the event, consisting of two for distin-

guished talks from Pi Mu Epsilon, one for a distinguished talk from MAA, a national undergraduate mathematics society, and one for the best student environmental presentation from SIGMAA-EM, a national society for students interested in solving environmental problems using mathematics.

"I think that it is exciting that we won these awards. Maybe more math majors would think about participating in these events because they could see how

fun and exciting they are," Nicole Casacchia, an integrated mathematics education and mathematics major, said.

During MathFest, students who are also members of Pi Mu Epsilon get a chance to meet.

David Martin, a mathematics and pre-med biology major, and member of Pi Mu Epsilon, attended MathFest this year for the first time.

Martin said that by setting a record this year, it shows the YSU math department can compete with other

math departments at private schools and larger universities. He plans on attending MathFest again and said, "It was a very rewarding experience and gave me a chance to build relationships with classmates."

Casacchia said, "The YSU math department has many bright students who are always participating in some sort of competition and getting recognized. The department does well at giving students opportunities to apply what they have learned."

Call Adrienne Sabo at (330) 941-1913.

POLICE BLOTTER

A freshman Lyden House resident was cited for underage drinking on Oct. 14. Police noticed a strong odor of alcohol on Andrew J. Pollick, 18, and noticed his eyes were very red and glassy, according to the report. They also noted Pollick had a "slurred and heavy tongue." When questioned, Pollick claimed he just wanted to go to his room and sleep, and then admitted to being 18 and having about six beers. According to the report, Pollick became very loud and angry when asked for identification, saying he was a criminal justice major and he knew his rights. Pollick was charged with underage consumption and released after the incident.

WYSU, continued from page 1

more than last fall's goal. As of Monday night, WYSU's web site reported raising more \$38,000.

Station Director Gary Sexton said he tries to set a realistic goal based on what they've done in the past. The public radio station, which airs classical and jazz music, news programming from National Public Radio and the BBC, and entertainment programs such as "A Prairie Home Companion," relies on listener donations for about 25 percent of its annual operating budget, Sexton said.

Forty percent of WYSU's \$770,000 operating budget this year comes from Youngstown State University. The station also receives annual grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The most recent grant totaled \$132,000, Sexton said. Corporations and businesses also underwrite programming.

In addition to donor fatigue from global disasters, Sexton is concerned that other economic factors might contribute to a decrease in donations.

"I think higher fuel costs, I think the state of the economy, I think what's going on at Delphi - this is just not a well off area. I'm very concerned about it," Sexton said.

The station has roughly 50,000 weekly listeners but only about 5 percent of those listeners donate, Sexton said. That's a percentage Sexton would like to improve.

"All other sources of money are threatened. The university money is threatened, simply because of what they get from the state. Federal money is always under jeop-

ardy. So our survivability is really dependent on listener support," Sexton said.

WYSU offers student and senior citizen memberships for a discounted \$20 donation—normal memberships cost \$35.

Listeners can pledge three ways: they can come to the WYSU studios in the basement of Cushwa, they can call (330) 941-1481 or they can pledge on the station's Web site www.wysu.org.

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

REFORM, continued from page 1

inating the need to have a reason to cast an absentee ballot. Under Ohio's current system, voters have to have a reason such as military service to get a mail-in vote. He said that senior citizens with mobility issues and business travelers could benefit from the amendment.

Ohio First spokesman David Hopcraft said that issue two offered no vote protection and was in need of safeguards. He said that there was no requirement for showing identification when getting a ballot.

McCarthy said that 29 states have similar plans and that there hasn't been a case of fraudulent voting. He said that the new system of voting would be the same as it is now; the only change would be that voters wouldn't have to state a reason for voting by mail.

Issue 3
RON believes that issue three would limit the amount of special-interest money backing politicians in Ohio by limiting campaign contributions. The group reasons that if politicians have less money from special-interest groups, they would have to work harder to please the people who voted for them.

"Ohio has some of the highest campaign contribution limits in the country," McCarthy said, claiming that a family of four could hypothetically contribute up to \$40,000 for a candidate.

Hopcraft said it wasn't wise to put dollar amounts

into a constitutional amendment because the only way to change the amounts was through another constitutional amendment.

Hopcraft also said that issue three would favor special interest groups, claiming that employee unions would be able to send in a check to a candidate from union dues. McCarthy called the claim "inaccurate."

Issue 4
McCarthy said that issue four would prohibit self-interested politicians from drawing their own districts to make elections favor the incumbents.

Under the new amendment, an independent commission would be in charge of drawing districts based on a set of criteria. Citizens would be able to submit their own plans for districts, McCarthy said.

Hopcraft said that outside persons and organizations would be able to draw state and congressional districts in Ohio and that Ohio citizens can already submit their own district plans for consideration without a specific amendment. He said it took the power out of the hands of Ohio voters and put it into the hands of appointed bureaucrats.

McCarthy said that anyone could submit a plan but the commission would choose the plan that would best fit the criteria of competitiveness and communities of interest.

Issue 5

Issue five, RON claims, would offer greater vote protection by creating a bipartisan board of elections in Ohio. Four members would be appointed by the governor, four other members would be appointed by members of the generally assembly of the opposing party, another member by a vote by the chief justice and the justices of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Hopcraft said the amendment would make it harder for Ohioans to fight voter fraud.

"What we're really talking about is stripping the election oversight responsibilities of an elected official and giving them to a board of bureaucrats who are safely removed from the people," Hopcraft said.

McCarthy said that the amendment would give the power of oversight from a biased partisan to an independent bipartisan commission of citizens.

"Voters will decide which is more fair. We have the potential next year for the election to be presided over by one of the candidates running for governor. Is this fair and impartial? Or we could have a bipartisan board made up of both Democrats and Republicans with no vested interest in the outcome," McCarthy said.

Efforts to Halt Amendments

Ohio First attempted to block the petitions for the amendments in August, stating that the petitions are invalid because they do not

contain the current constitutional language that would be deleted if the amendments were approved.

Another dispute in August dealt with who was circulating the petitions. Former Senate President Richard Finan filed suit against Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, saying that non-state residents weren't allowed to gather signatures.

McCarthy called the suits "absurd" saying that courts threw out both of the arguments.

Hopcraft said Ohio First would alert and contact Ohio voters through e-mails and Web pages about the upcoming vote. Hopcraft said the group also planned on having a television advertising campaign about the vote.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

The Grist Mill Lounge

Inside Wedgewood Lanes
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Austintown

Live Bands every Friday and Saturday

Friday, October 21st "The Rage"
Saturday, October 22nd "Fuzz"

** 1/2 price admission with college ID**
www.wedgewoodlanes.com

THE PENGUIN PRIZE PATROL

Returns to Campus

\$1500
IN HOMECOMING PRIZES!!

Wear Your Red & White
Wednesday, October 19th
Enter 8am to 2pm
Kilcawley Center

REGISTER TO WIN

by stopping at the Homecoming Coke booth located on the lower level of Kilcawley. Open to YSU students, faculty, staff and visitors.

- To enter the contest you must
- (1) have red & white and/or YSU apparel on and you must
 - (2) be drinking a "bottle" of any Coke product, which also includes PowerAde and Dasani water, when you request the entry form.
- *Bottle beverages only, no cups!

LOOK FOR THE PENGUIN PRIZE PATROL!!

Six lucky students each hour in Kilcawley Center will be surprised and awarded INSTANT PRIZES by the Penguin Prize Patrol! You may be chosen if you are displaying your YSU Homecoming spirit by

- (1) wearing red & white, and/or YSU logo apparel and
- (2) between 9:45am and 11am are spotted drinking a bottle of PowerAde or Dasani Water or between 11am and 1:15pm are drinking a bottle of Coke, Cherry Coke, or Diet Coke.
- (3) HINT: Many "lucky" winners last year were spotted with shakers, pennants, & fun props!

Prize winners of gift cards will be notified on Thursday, October 20th, by email and/or phone. Winners must be able to pick up their prize at Kilcawley Center on or before October 20th, 2005, or unclaimed prizes will be awarded to another contestant.

Classified

Help Wanted

Students who are in good standing and interested in working for the Grounds Department during "Snow Removal," please contact the Grounds Department, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. For information, call 330-941-7200.

The Office of Career and Counseling Services is looking for four student telephone survey assistants. Applicants will obtain career information from recent YSU graduates.

Applicants should be organized, excellent communicators, who are comfortable making phone contacts and able to troubleshoot any problems. Request applicants that have clear, legible handwriting and are available to work most hours and days indicated: Monday through Thursday, October 24 to November 3 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$6.10/hour. Please contact 330-941-3515 or room 1034 in Jones Hall.

Chrystal Catering now hiring part-time caterers, flexible hours, will work around schedule. For information call 330-743-8062.

Bartenders wanted! Up to \$300 a day, no experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520 ext 287.

Housing

6 to 8 bedroom house for rent. 3 bathrooms, central air, walking distance to YSU, secure parking. Includes all appliances and washer/dryer. Call 330-518-4382.

1-4 bedroom apartments and houses. Five blocks from YSU, includes stove and refrigerator. 330-743-7111.

Rental Specials: 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, \$200 security deposit, 1 month free. 330-270-1781.

Miscellaneous

1997 red Dodge Dakota Sport for sale! 5.2 liter motor, 4 wheel drive, new transmission, asking \$7,000 or BO. Call John 330-881-5290.

Professional Child Care/Babysitting. Safe, fun and reliable environment. 5-6 days a week Monday-Saturday. Contact Linda Candel at 330-207-4296. Reasonable and affordable.



WIN!

GIFT CARDS:

- \$100 YSU Bookstore
- \$50 YSU Bookstore [3 Awarded]
- \$50 Southern Park Mall [2 Awarded]
- \$50 Dick's Sporting Goods [3 Awarded]
- \$25 Best Buy [4 Awarded]

Grand Prize YSU Tailgate Party Package
Grand Prize details and photos available at www.kcysu.edu
Visit our website to see photos of last year's INSTANT PRIZE winners!

Sponsored by



& Kilcawley Center

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OUR SIDE

Failure tag fits Bush presidency

If you do a Google search for the word "failure," the first site that pops up is President Bush's biography from the White House Web page.

Google explains the search outcome on a practice called "googlebombing," in which pranksters take advantage of the search engine's method for ranking pages.

However, failure seems like the best word to describe Bush's entire presidency. Over the last few months, Bush's shortcomings — and those of the entire Republican leadership — have come into crystal clear focus.

It started with Hurricane Katrina. In a slow-motion replay of his delayed response to the Sept. 11 attacks (when he sat and finished reading "My Pet Goat" to a bunch of school kids after being told a plane had just slammed into the World Trade Center), it took five days for the real impact of the hurricane to sink into Bush's skull. In his defense, he was on vacation. Can't interrupt that.

Kanye West boldly asserted the president didn't care about black people, and whether valid or not, that message radiated into the black community, culminating in a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll last week that showed only 2 percent — 2 percent! — of African Americans think Bush is doing a good job.

But even if the president kind of cares about black people (and chances are he really doesn't), he and the Republican Party definitely do not care about poor people. After ignoring the ballooning federal deficit when it comes to the Iraq war (currently \$5 billion a month) and a new Medicare drug package (\$720 billion in the first 10 years) that helps pharmaceutical firms more than the elderly, the GOP finally wants to curb excessive government spending by cutting food stamps, Medicare, farm supports and other programs that help the poor.

Odd how Republicans have become fiscally responsible only after having to shell out \$62 billion in disaster relief for poor folks down south. It seems like a bit of con job to stuff financial aid for poor, hurricane-ravaged people in one pocket, and simultaneously pull basic lower-class welfare assistance money out of the other pocket.

Suddenly, tax cuts for America's richest citizens do not seem like such a good idea. But don't try telling that to Bush. He's probably on vacation.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't take away Mackey's pen

Editor:
Don't you dare "Take Away Bob Mackey's Pen" (per Jaon Izzo's letter). Believe it or not there are a few of us out there who like to laugh, have a sense of humor and (gasp) enjoy reading something different, besides just news. I don't understand why this is even an issue.

For example, I hate sports but I'm not calling for the University to close them down and I'm not calling for The Jambar to stop reporting them. I understand that there are people who like sports and enjoy reading about them.

But don't worry folks, I have a solution, it's called turning the page. I'm sure this is a new and novel idea for some people, but just try it. I bet you'll be 100 percent happier not knowing what the rest of us are enjoying.

To Mr. Mackey, I loved "Sesquipedalian Like Me." I was laughing out loud in the hallway when I read about Paris Hilton's morbid genitalia, people were looking at me like I was a ninny-hammer.

You did your job, you deserve to be paid.

Beth Spatholt

'What's wrong with Ohio Republicans?'

Editor:
What's wrong with our Ohio Republican friends? Why do they sell out their convictions and your family's health to the Big Insurance and Big Medicine power bosses?

Ohio Republicans like to talk about health care choices. What choices? Here's an excruciating health care choice based on an actual Mahoning Valley controversy.

Which of the following choices will be the next person enrolled in your employer-paid commercial health insurance risk pool?

(1) Your co-worker's medically uninsured asthmatic 14-year-old granddaughter, orphaned since the recent death of her custodial parent, and in your co-worker's informal custody pending formal guardianship proceedings;

(2) Your co-worker's medically uninsured and ailing 50-something Mom and Dad, not yet of Medicare age, and who make their home with your co-worker to share expenses;

(3) Your medically uninsured 38-year-old part-time co-worker, medical prospects unknown, who is un-enrolled because he doesn't qualify for employer-paid insurance according to an unexamined 70-year-old business practice;

(4) Your co-worker's medically insured 26-year-old gay or lesbian lover, already enrolled in another employer-paid "risk" pool, and in reasonably good health; or,

(5) Your co-worker's new purebred pet daschund, if you work for one of the 900-some companies in the United States that offers voluntary veterinary health insurance benefits for Fido and Tiger.

If you picked number five, you'd be right.

Surprised? Why won't Ohio Republicans tell us about the ration queue for health care? Why won't Ohio Republicans tell us what happens when folks in the queue get their ration card too late? Why won't Ohio Republicans tell us the sick pay for the healthy?

Republicans chat up the Buchanan brigades, and talk Jesus to Bob Jones Christians, but it's humbug. The power bosses call the shots. That's why Costa Rica does a better job of seeing infants through their first year than Louisiana and Mississippi — and a dozen Ohio counties. Have Ohio Republicans lost their minds?

Ohio Republicans used to produce men of stature, such as the 19th century's U.S. Sen. John Sherman, native of Lancaster and author of the 1890 Sherman Antitrust Act. Or the 20th century's U. S. Sen. and Cincinnati Robert A. Taft, grandfather of the current governor.

Both would have had the wisdom to know that asking our commercial health insurance and medical elites what to do about the medically uninsured makes about as much sense as asking Standard Oil mogul and Cleveland John D. Rockefeller what to do about the unpetroleum, or John L. Lewis about the unlabored.

Jack Labusch

Tabak wrong about Bible-science ties

Editor:
Contrary to what Professor Tabak stated in his Oct. 11 letter, the Bible does not state that the Earth is flat nor does it state that the Sun revolves about it. In fact,

a passage found in Luke 17:34-36 has both day and night occurring simultaneously, impossible for a flat Earth.

While it is true that a hare does not chew its cud in the way a cow would, it does chew its cud in a certain sense: It chews some of the pellets that it has excreted. So Lev. 11:6 is not really in error. The Bible, properly interpreted, does not contradict good science, but it is important to realize that the Bible is not a science textbook. To learn science we must look elsewhere, and the Bible invites us to do so.

Professor Tabak also implied that the Dark Ages were a result of Christianity ruling during that period. Here again, I disagree. I suppose with a very loose definition of Christianity, his statement could be considered correct. However, if you compare what Christ taught with what was actually practiced during that time, you couldn't say that it was the fault of Christianity.

My colleague also overlooks Christianity's contribution to science. For the belief in a God who established laws for the universe invited people to study the creation to determine those laws. We still retain today some of the assumptions that were made in the early developments of science. We assume that the laws of physics are the same on Earth as they are everywhere in the universe. We can't prove this without visiting every point in the universe.

I do agree with my colleague that intelligent design is not science because it is impossible for it to be tested. However, we should not be arrogant about science; it is based on some (sometimes forgotten) assumptions that cannot be tested either.

Eric J. Wingler
Professor
Mathematics and Statistics

The world is still flat

Editor:
Recently in the Houston/LA playoffs someone hit a homerun and gave a sign thanking god (who else). That, after Katrina, proved that the world was still flat. I'm not thanking anyone for zilch until all the originators, staff, and crew of all "reality shows" are wiped out — and possibly my prayers will be answered when Avian Flu hits us — as it has Europe (now).

Good, too, because the Flu will prevent me from looking like Hitler or a serial killer going after these people. I also include in this list all daytime soaps — where every guy does the entire show shirtless — yet no woman is in a thong!

Further, I will become a born-again-Christian, since this god can grant a homierun despite the fact that the same time 40,000 souls were lost in the Pakistan Quake — 10,000 being small children; then certainly he can strike all rapper deaf mutes. Moreover, I will take to the road, like Paul, talking to the Ephesians, Corinthians, and Romans about god-stuff, if this god would whisper in Bill Bennett's ear that no blacks have raped/murderer any kids (except for one nut in Mississippi in 1994), that white kids — not blacks — take lunch breaks blowing away half the students — and with the exception of the two idiot blacks serial-killing people in the D.C. area, historically whites have engaged in this as recreational relief.

I will become Billy Graham-like and say god is going to kill me if I don't get \$8 million. I'll simply say that if this god will point out the many times he has ravished China and India — just over the last 50 years — taking hundreds of thousands in earthquakes and floods, yet you never see people wallowing in their misery and insisting on the sympathy of whites as did Katrina victims screaming on TV. This proved the greatest tragedy of all; since, after 4,000 years we still cannot speak clearly enunciated un-Ebonic English, bringing back the horrors of Chief Moose (with a Ph.D.) speaking "dis" and "dat" on TV worldwide. Had these serial killers taken him out at a news conference, all would be right with the world.

Also, let that god show when white bands could sing on the harmonic scales of common sense without screaming: Chicago, Grand Funk, Bread — even the Doodle Town Pipers for Pete's Sakes!

Ted Williams

Send a letter
to the editor at
thejambar@
gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Intel recognizes Akron campus for being on cutting edge

By: Dave Scott
KRYGAMEN

Freed from the wires normally associated with the Internet, Ohio's University of Akron students can sit in the stands at games and watch sporting events on their laptops.

Even the Rubber Bowl is set up for wireless communication. Fans can sit in the stands and watch other sporting events on their laptops.

These are all reasons that Intel Corp. has ranked UA third among the nation's top wireless campuses.

"This has been a point of differentiation for the University of Akron for several years," said UA President Luis Proenza.

The school began installing underground

TOP WIRELESS U.S. CAMPUSES

1. Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.
2. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.
3. University of Akron
4. Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
5. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh
6. Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Mass.
7. St. John's University, New York
8. Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland
9. Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.
10. Trinity University, San Antonio

wireless equipment on campus about five years ago. It is now possible for a wireless computer to log onto the network from anywhere on campus.

"That's the way the technology has been going, and students come to the University of Akron with an expectation of having access to a ubiquitous computing environment," Proenza said.

Keith Piskur, a junior computer science major from Strongsville, said he doesn't even own a laptop computer. Still, he is able to use the network every day

by borrowing a laptop from the university that he uses to log on at the student center.

"I use it for general Web searching and such, e-mail and stuff like that," he said.

The top wireless school, according to the survey, is Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. Second is Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Bert Sperling, principal author of the study, said it was just coincidence that the top three schools compete athletically in the Mid-American Conference. Sperling said the survey

might not even be conducted five years from now. By then, he said, every school will have wireless coverage.

Wireless communication changes more than just the way people log onto the Internet, Sperling said.

"What we've heard is that it changes the way people relate to each other and the way they do their work," he said. "They found that something happened when they went to (wireless) completely. They used it much more. They were using it for different things."

Here are some examples:
— At Dartmouth College

in Hanover, N.H., students use a wireless network to hook into free telephone service through Voice Over Internet Protocol technology.

At Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, students can check on the availability of washing machines elsewhere on campus.

Sporting events are broadcast across campus at Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind., at Ball State and at Western Michigan.

At Akron, class notes are stored on the Internet for students to review and compare with their own notes.

"All of these things are making place and time not as relevant, so students can be in class at the same time they are downloading information for that same class or they can be gathering resources for that class," Proenza said. "Keeping abreast of technology is very important."

He said he did not know how much the university spent on its wireless system.

The current technology is called Wi-Fi, for wireless fidelity. Each Wi-Fi device

can go only a few hundred feet. The devices are distributed across campus for universal availability.

The next step might be a technology that is called WiMax and looks like a cell phone tower. Two towers can cover an entire campus, providing even faster service and improved security.

Kathy Berad, consumer education manager for Intel, said future developments also might serve disabled students, or those with mobility problems. They also might allow students who are shut out of popular classes to watch lectures on video from a nearby room instead.

Proenza said university leaders saved some money by going right to wireless technology instead of wiring the campus.

"For our older buildings, having to retrofit them was more expensive," he said. "We knew this was the direction technology was going."

ROCK, continued from page 1

unless they have been seriously hurt," Denman said adding, "Most students are able to catch themselves before they fall."

Samantha Clem, a freshman, said she didn't know painting the sidewalk wasn't allowed but said it makes sense because she has noticed the area becoming slippery when wet.

"I know a lot of people that have almost fallen, especially when it rains," Clem said.

Kay Helscel, chair of the University Safety Committee, said she wants to stress relocation of the rock is only one of the possibilities they are considering to decrease slips and falls.

"It may be the most drastic measure to take, but there are other options that we are considering," Helscel said.

Helscel said she plans to meet with McGovern and SGA Friday morning to discuss ways to reduce accidents around the rock area. Ideas include posting a sign or treating the sidewalk slabs with paint resistant material.

Posting a sign might be a good idea, but some students said they feel a sign would only be ignored.

"If they posted one, I think it would only serve to cover their butts," Clem said.

Greg Gulas, the assistant director of student activities, said SGA looked into the cost of buying a plaque, but the notion has since been abandoned.

Although the idea of changing the material was brought up, Helscel said her department furthered their initial research and found out that treating the sidewalk with the paint resistant material would not be viable solution because while it would stop the paint from sticking, it would make the sidewalk more slippery.

Currently, Helscel says in order to create traction, the sidewalk area is treated with sand and spray paint concoction by the groundskeepers, but it is hard for the groundskeepers to keep up.

"The sand-paint mixture is only a temporary solution, because the groundskeepers

have to keep repainting the area several times in one week or in one day," Helscel said.

Helscel said if the rock is relocated, the problem of sidewalk painting would be eliminated because there wouldn't be any sidewalks to paint.

"If moved by the rec center, we would have the rock surrounded by gravel with a path running up to it," Helscel said.

Rene Rodriguez, a freshman, said it would be weird to see the rock in another place.

"It's been there for so long that I think the campus core would be missing something if it were moved, but if it helps students get to class more safely, then I think it might be a good idea," Rodriguez said.

In addition to safety concerns, Helscel said painting areas other than the rock, including the sidewalk, is considered vandalism.

"It has gotten worse, we are beginning to see the paint spread to nearby lamp-posts," Helscel said.

Another solution would be to inform student organizations about the regulations of painting the rock. Helscel said that could prove difficult because painting the rock is an unregulated student activity that any student can participate in, regardless of organization involvement.

Gulas said the last time student organizations were informed about rock painting regulations was five years ago when he left notices in student organization mail boxes and painted a message urging students to keep the paint limited to rock.

"We did have policies in the past, but they have been hard to enforce. Not everyone who paints the rock is part of a student organization," Gulas said.

While nothing is set in stone, Helscel said she wants to stress to students that her committee is acting only in an advisory position and does not have the final say.

Gulas backed up that statement by saying the end decision will most likely be

made by administration in conjunction with SGA.

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RESOLUTION, continued from page 1

should be solved.

"Several college professors talked to me behind the scenes and said this was long overdue," Mumper said.

Mumper said the resolution was a "good compromise" and that it gave individual universities the freedom to work out solutions to the problems themselves without having to "copycat" each other.

Mumper said he was "hopeful and encouraged" by university presidents' reaction to the resolution. He added he was willing to let the universities solve the problems individually.

"We're in a sort of wait-and-see period. The bill obviously isn't dead until

Jan. 1 st of next year," Mumper said, citing an editorial by the Cleveland Plain Dealer which said that if college universities failed to address the issue, that Mumper and his peers would return.

"A student's education should not be compromised by a professor's opinion or ideological beliefs. Students are coming in for a product and that's what they should get. They shouldn't be told what to think," Mumper added.

Student Government Association President Bob McGovern said that the differences between the resolution and the proposed senate bill were "a step in the right direction." McGovern noted how YSU already had grievance proce-

dures for students who felt their rights were violated.

"It's letting the state level know that we don't want standards imposed on us when we have standards of our own," McGovern said of the resolution.

Mumper said he would present the resolution at a conference in Florida.

The bill was based on ideas from a Washington, D.C. advocacy group, Students for Academic Freedom, which was founded by conservative columnist David Horowitz, who once said in a column "Universities should not be indoctrination centers for the political left."

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

REVIEW, continued from page 6

friendship that goes unspoken from show to show, yet it is understood by all. It is a feeling of unification, and that they/we are all a part of something special, some-

thing unique. Although I didn't catch their names, I'm sure that the gentleman could have proposed to his lady at any given time anyplace else. But, he

chose a punk show. And I couldn't have been happier about his choice to let the rest of us share their moment.

Call Jeremy Lydic at (330) 941-1913.

SWEETEST, continued from page 6

what America is all about.

In many ways, Sweetest Day is the true love holiday, being rooted in such American traditions as murder and racism. This statement may seem shocking, but do you know what the roots of Valentine's Day

trace back to? Stinky heathens, who would get their priests drunk, and have these pious fellows run through town wearing the skins of newly-slaughtered goats, which I am going to assume were cute when they were still alive. After

that, the women in their town would try to touch the traveling goat skin in an effort to increase their baby-making capacity in some way. That's sick, weird, and thoroughly researched by me.

And where did I get all of


this information on Milford Sweetest? I'm pretty sure it was part of a book review on PBS's Reading Rainbow, or a fever dream. All I remember is that Levar Burton was very excited about it.

Call Bob Mackey at (330) 941-1913.

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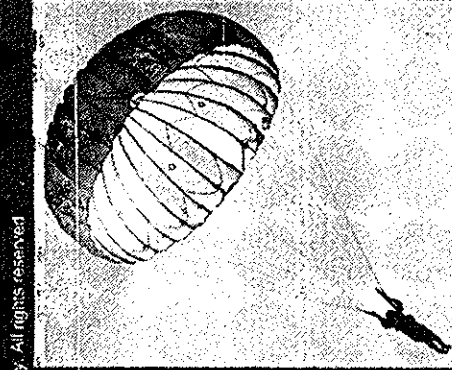
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- ▶ 10/20-23 — Men's tennis @ ITA Championships
- ▶ 10/21 Volleyball vs. Butler, 7 p.m.
- ▶ 10/22 Volleyball vs. Wright State, 2 p.m.
- ▶ 10/23 Soccer @ UW-Green Bay

YSU FOOTBALL

Penguins win nailbiter, 23-21

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

For a few moments in the fourth quarter of Saturday's football game, nearly 12,000 Penguins fans held their breaths. It would take two huge plays to convince the Youngstown State University faithful to continue breathing again.

With less than five minutes remaining in the final stanza and with the Western Illinois Leathernecks enjoying a 21-17 lead, the Penguins defense that was tested all night long came up with their biggest play of the night. Defensive back Codera Jackson intercepted a Steve LaFalce pass and returned it nine yards to the Leathernecks 31 yard line.

Following the game, a calm and collected Jackson said that the play was typical of the YSU defense so far this year.

"We bend but we don't break," Jackson said. Jackson also stated that he happens to be Johnny-on-the-spot in critical situations. "A lot of times I happen to be in the right place, at the right time." Jackson's fourth quarter interception was his fifth of the year and leads the Penguins, which are ranked fifth nationally, in take-aways.

The second play that resuscitated the Penguin crowd came via emerging star Marcus Mason. On third down, Mason took a handoff and jaunted 28 yards unmolested into the end zone to give the

Penguins the lead and to seal the deal and preserve a Penguins win at 23-21.

"It was a great call," Mason said. "I didn't even get touched."

Mason, who has rushed for over 100 yards in each of the last three games, finished the night with 125 yards and two touchdowns.

YSU head coach Jon Heacock said that the win was great for the team but they need to remain level headed as the season continues.

"We need to stay humble," Heacock said.

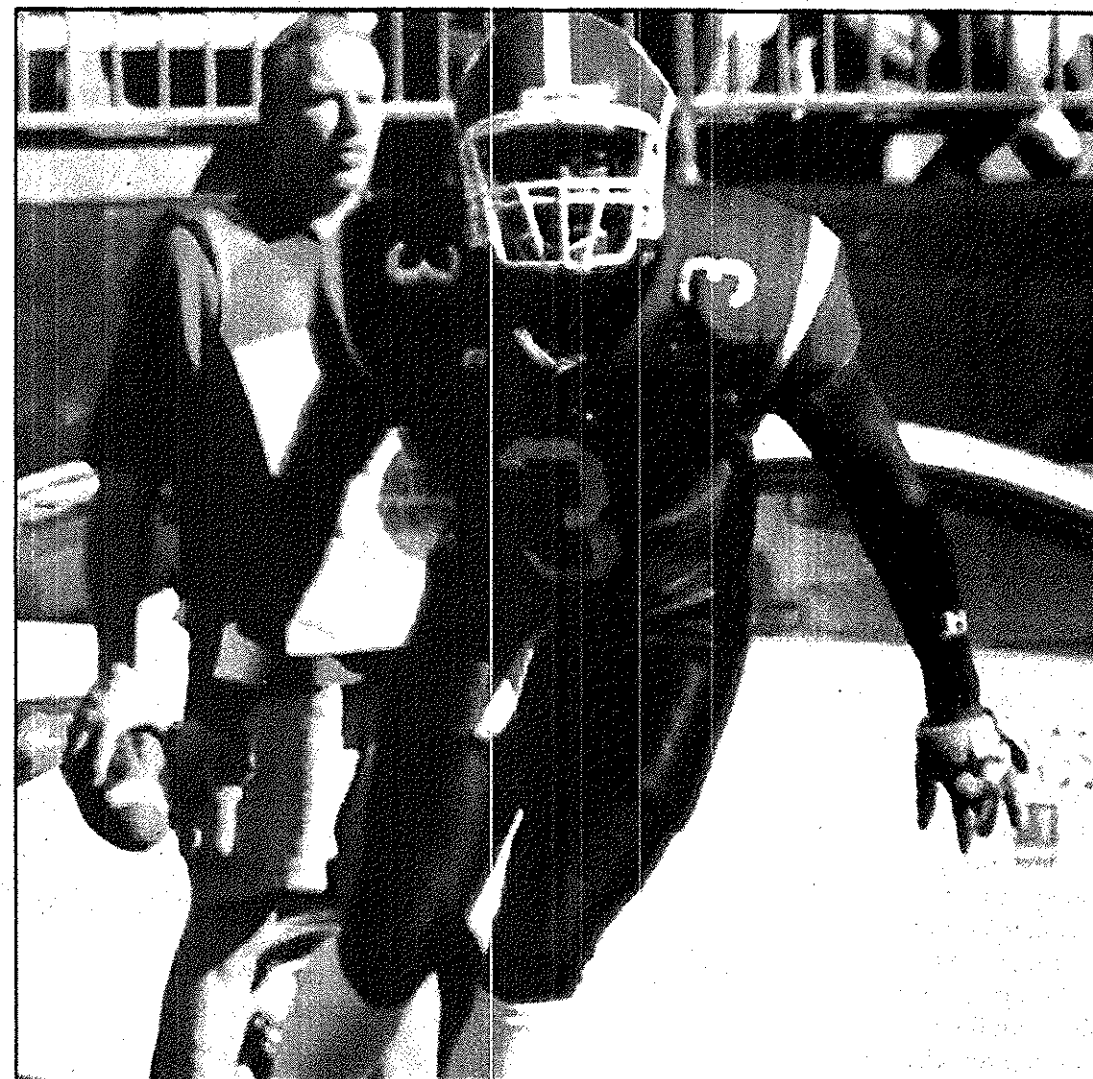
The Penguins, while remaining humble, played with a swagger Saturday and Jackson said the attitude of the team is what has been getting them through tough games.

"You should always feel like you can handle any situation," Jackson said.

Throughout the game, the Penguins had many situations to handle. After scoring the game's first touchdown behind a 39-yard Tom Zetts touchdown pass to Damian Wright, the Penguins traded punches with the Leathernecks. Zetts finished with 202 yards on the night.

WIU would strike next on an 18-yard touchdown toss from LaFalce. LaFalce proved to be the thorn in the Penguins side most of the night.

LaFalce erupted for 363 yards and three touchdowns despite being sacked seven times on the night. The Penguins would break the seven when Mason ran for his first touchdown on the night from 25 yards out. The Leathernecks tied the game with thirty seconds left in the first



Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

ABOVE: Penguin defensive back Codera Jackson is shown during recent action. Jackson made a key interception Saturday during the Penguins' win over Western Illinois. **BELOW LEFT:** YSU running back Marcus Mason looks upfield for more yardage. In three games as YSU's feature back, Mason has broken the 100-yard plateau all three times and has been a key cog in YSU's balanced, dangerous offensive attack. The Penguins still have just one loss after Saturday's 23-21 victory and have their eyes set not just on a playoff berth, but on the Gateway Conference title as well.

half when LaFalce threw another touchdown. The Penguins scored first in the second half on a 25-yard field goal from Brian Palmer. However, that 17-14 lead would be erased by another LaFalce touchdown.

Heacock said that despite being down late in the game, his team never faltered and remained poised.

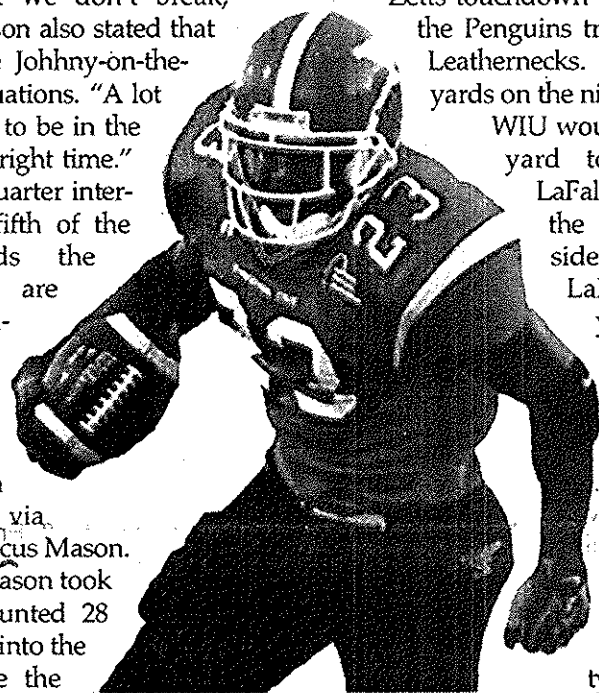
"There was never panic on the sideline," Heacock said.

The win lifts the Penguins to 6-1 on the sea-

son and raise their conference record to a league best 3-0. The 6-1 record is the best ever start for Heacock.

The Penguins went into the game ranked No. 15 in the ESPN/USATODAY poll and were one of four Gateway squads in the top 25. They return to action Saturday when they host Missouri State in a Gateway contest. The game highlights homecoming week for the Penguins.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.



YSU VOLLEYBALL

Homecookin' for spikers

By: Steve Lettau
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Youngstown State University's volleyball team played their first home match at Beeghly Center on Oct. 14, against the Flames from University of Chicago Illinois.

Going into Friday's contest, the Penguins looked to improve their 7-10 season record and 0-6 league record.

The Penguins jumped out to an early lead against the Flames, winning the first game 30-28. After a slow start in the second game the Penguins tied it 19-19 and then rattled off six consecutive points to put them ahead for good winning 30-24.

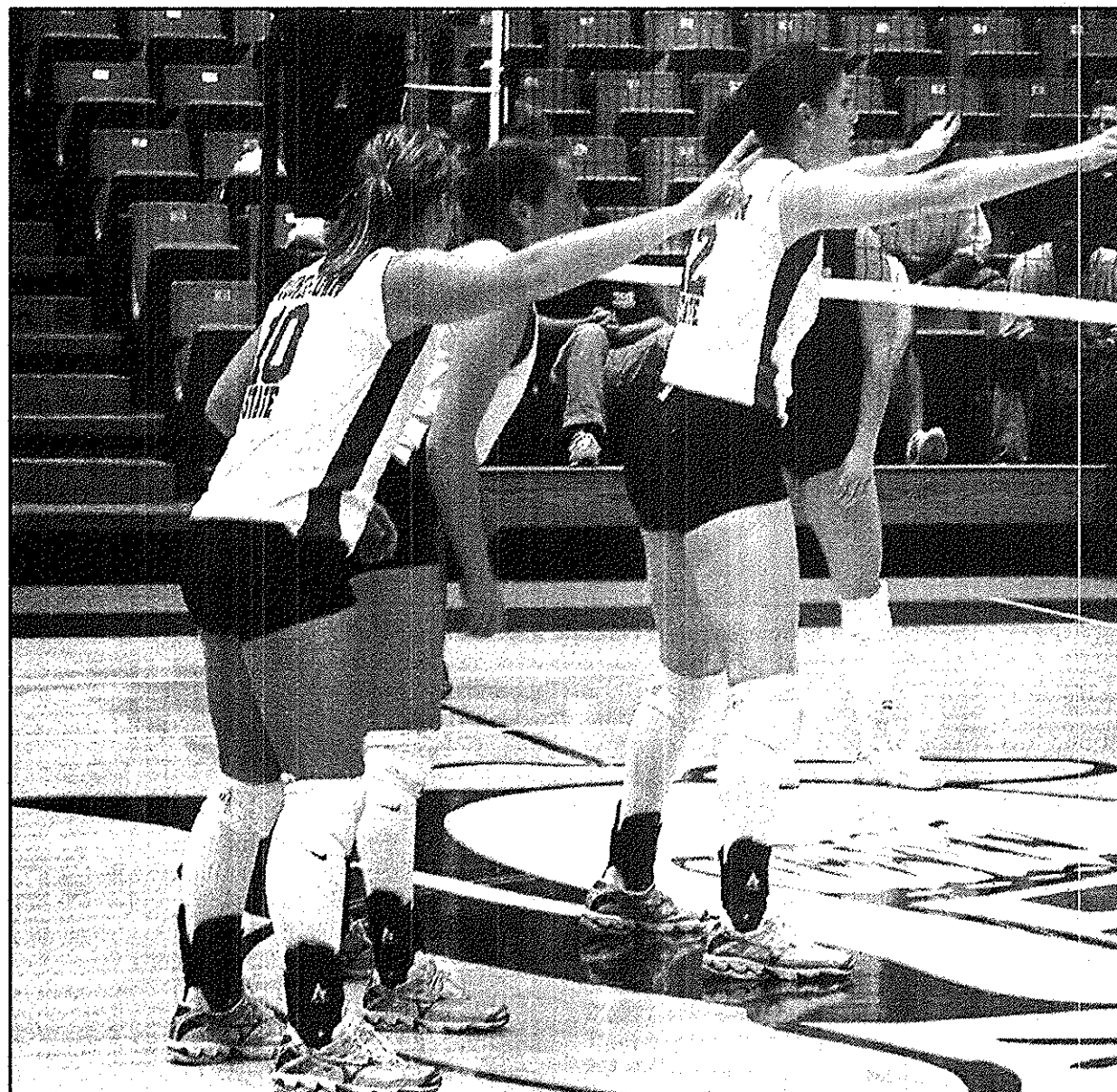
After going 2-0 against the Flames, the Penguins were showing that they belonged with the number one team in the Horizon League.

Leading members of the Penguins squad were middle hitter Abby Ettenhofer with 17 kills and senior Angie Pasquinelli with 52 sets for the night.

UIC would not just let the Penguins win as they had their own star player to turn the tide. Katrina Nedeljkovic led match play with 31 kills, 12 digs and a .333 hit percentage, as the Flames rallied behind her, winning the next three games 22-30, 22-30 and 14-16.

"She is definitely up for one of the conference players of the year," coach Joe Bonner said. "She definitely carried them in games three, four and five."

Halfway through the season,



Jambor / Katie Libecco

YSU volleyball players make their calls and signs before a play in recent action at the Beeghly Center. YSU returned to home action after several games on the road, and hung tough against UIC and Loyola despite dropping both matches. The Penguins are in action tonight against West Virginia at 7 p.m.

the Penguins are improving to the point of taking it to the next step. The level of play has shown him what his team is made of, he said.

"It was a total team effort, they played with heart and

desire tonight," Bonner said. "Our attackers put the ball down and our setters ran a balanced offense."

On Saturday, the Penguins lost a three game match to Loyola, dropping to 7-12 and 0-

7 in the Horizon League.

They continue their eight-game home stand against West Virginia tonight at 7 p.m in Beeghly Center.

Call Steve Lettau at (330) 941-1913.

YSU Sports in Brief

courtesy of ysusports.com

Soccer: YSU comes up short against Valparaiso

Valparaiso, Ind. — The YSU (1-15) soccer team took four shots on goal against Valparaiso (9-5-1), but could not match the Crusaders offensive efforts making the final score 3-1 in Sunday afternoon's match.

Valparaiso forward Kendall Brown came up with a quick first score just eight minutes into the game off the assist from Brittany Derksen and Emily King. Brown came back in less than 12 minutes with another score 20 yards out on a left corner kick to put her team up 2-0.

Kara Vazza, Jenna Fink and Brittny Humphrey each took a shot on goal for YSU, but all three attempts were stopped by goalie Erin Murray. YSU goalie Caitlin Bestard also had four saves for the Penguins.

A penalty kick in the second half by Valparaiso midfielder Emily King put the Penguins down by three, but the deficit was soon cut in half with an unassisted score by YSU defender Jenna Fink. With just under five minutes left in the game, YSU did not have any time to make a come back ending the game 3-1.

The Penguins will be back on the road next Sunday as they travel to Wisconsin to take on UW-Green Bay at noon.

Cross Country: Cicero leads Penguins at PSU National Invite

State College, Pa. — Senior Emily Cicero finished 67th with a time of 22:31 in the women's "A" race while Nick Kruse led the men's squad to a 92nd place finish in the men's race at the Penn State National Invitational on Saturday morning.

Kruse finished with an 87th place time of 26:46 on PSU's 5.2 mile course as the Penguins competed in their final meet before the Horizon League Championship on Oct. 29.

Behind Kruse, Dave Mealy finished 137th with a mark of 27:12 while Nick Smith finished 151st in 27:22. Freshman Dan Nemerigut placed 206th with a mark of 28:05 while R.D. Goodright placed 225th in 28:35.

Senior Gina Mavris finished 196th with a time of 24:05 in the "A" race, while Amy Moore, Madelyn McGhee and Debbie Braung competed in the "B" race. Moore finished 87th (26:51), McGhee placed 91st (26:55) and Braung finished 93rd (27:03).

ART EXHIBIT

Moonwalking artist's work on exhibit

By: Eric Grosso
FEATURES REPORTER

Few artists have truly lived their work. Even fewer can capture the American spirit with their memories. In the latest exhibit at the Butler Institute of American Art, former astronaut Alan Bean reveals his experiences of space travel with American courage and character in his paintings.

Bean is the first, and only, artist to paint from actual experience from beyond Earth. "Alan Bean: An Artist on the Moon" at the Butler Institute of American Art will feature his critically acclaimed paintings from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

Bean served as the Apollo 12 Lunar Module Pilot and was the fourth man to walk on the moon, one of only 12. He also was the Commander of Skylab 2 mission, traveling 24.4 million miles during 59 days in space and was the first man to eat spaghetti in space. Bean has logged more than 1,671 hours and 45 minutes in space.

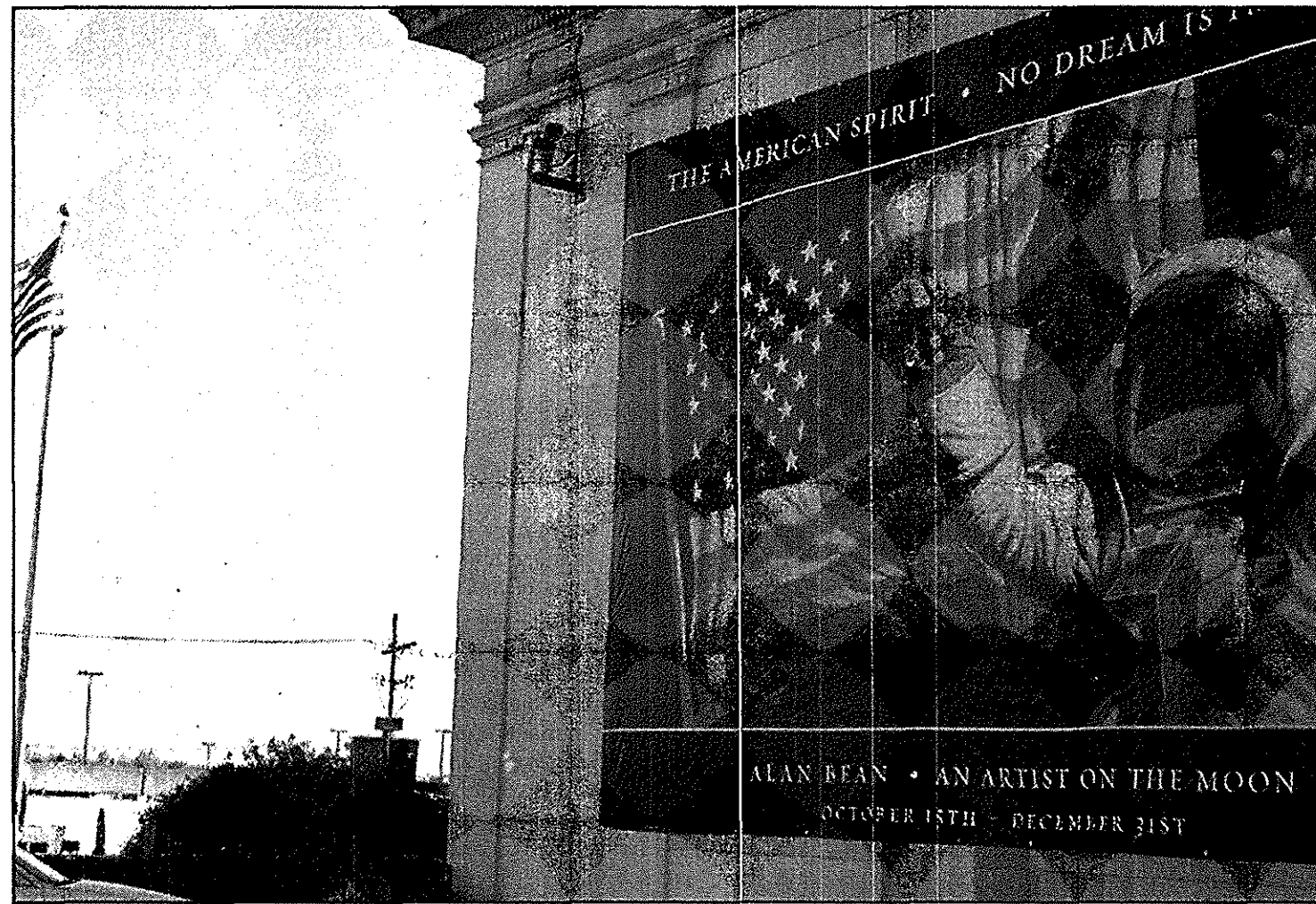
Retiring from NASA in 1981, Bean is revered for his paintings of space as much as the time he spent there. It began as a hobby, but Bean took a suggestion from a friend and started painting for a living.

"I had a lot of nice job offers for a lot for a lot of money, but I didn't care about them," Bean said. "I care about these paintings."

Noting how the United States prayed and cheered during the journey, Bean insists if you look close in each of his paintings, you can find the spirit of Apollo.

"Every human heart knows that spirit, because every one of us is born with it inside us," Bean said.

Spending 18 years learning space hardware, the amount of detail going into his work goes unmatched by any other space artist. He often spends days on small specifics, such as



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

A poster advertising the work of Alan Bean, a former astronaut turned artist, hangs outside the Butler Institute of American Art. Bean's work is on display at the Butler through the end of the year.

tiny collectors and hooks on a space suit, evident by the incredible detail in his paintings.

Using more than just his memories, Bean gives a rather unique touch to his work. A few of his paintings include moon dust, complete with footprints from moon boots, small pieces of an American flag used on the moon, patches from his space suit as well as small bits of the Apollo 12 heat shield. Before he even starts painting, Bean makes imprints with space tools on each canvas.

"I do it just to make it moon-like. The moon is very rugged," Bean said in an interview with CNN.

Bean noted he regrets he didn't do any sketching while in

space. Now he relies on memories, photographs and conversations with other astronauts to complete his work.

Bean holds 11 world records in space and aeronautics and has received numerous awards, including two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, the Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal and the Robert J. Collier Trophy.

Bean has also detailed his experiences in "Apollo: An Eyewitness Account" written in 1998.

"Alan Bean: An Artist on the Moon" at the Butler Institute of American Art is free to the public.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

COMMENTARY

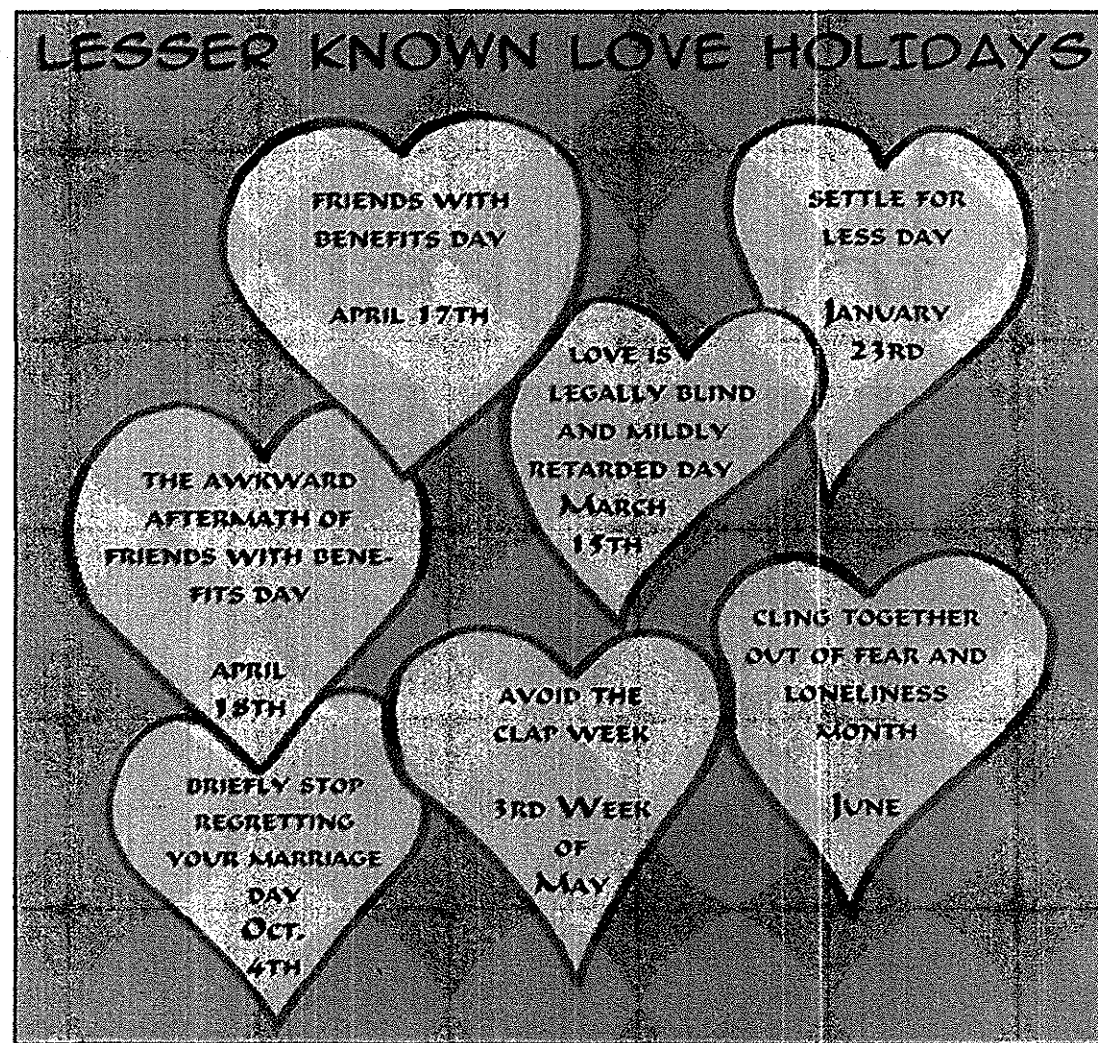
Sweetest Day: The bitter background

By: Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

It's fall, and love is in the air. This statement may seem false, as it's a common belief that springtime is the most appropriate season for the love-to-air ratio to be at record levels. Despite this accepted "truth," however, I assure you that I'm not lying, and you are full of beans. Love, being an (yet to be recognized by science) airborne virus, does not pick appropriate times of the year to germinate. Much like a fruit fly or your common household zombie, love spreads without any concern for mankind; it's open season on us everyday! And, like all diseases, such as cancer and hypochondria, love has a few "awareness days" etched into our American calendars. The recently-passed Sweetest Day is one of these moments of awareness, and it has a rich and storied background many people are not aware of.

What exactly is Sweetest Day? Is its only purpose to inflict moments of panic on men who suddenly realize the existence of the holiday and are then compelled to buy cheap boxes of chocolates, which may or may not be laced with arsenic, at gas stations? Where do all of these seedy, unshaven, mustachioed street vendors selling roses and wearing gaudy windbreakers come from? Sweetest Day, being shrouded in mystery, provokes many questions. To answer many of these questions, and perhaps to pose many more, the mythic origins of this pre-emptive strike on Valentine's Day should be explored.

Milford Sweetest was a confused cooper who lived on the mean and salty streets of New York in the early 1930s. Wanting to impress a girl he was sweet on, Milford decided to leave the thriving



coopering industry in order to create a holiday to show just how much he loved his dear Mabel; a holiday that would blow Valentine's Day out of the water.

Milford had two problems, though; first, he thought Valentine's Day was named after the then-recent Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, even though he couldn't exactly see how the concept of love was connected to gang wars in Chicago. The other was that he was profoundly insane, but this fact should be apparent after reading about his first problem.

In order to best the Valentine's Day Massacre (keep in mind his train of thought), Milford took to the streets nightly, shooting at any gangsters in sight. Back then, it was easy to tell who was a gangster, because they all wore hats; however, all men

wore hats at that time, so this formula was hard to apply realistically. Upon discovering real gangsters, Milford didn't think that they would shoot back, and this oversight cost him the use of his legs.

Milford didn't give up, though, and used a repurposed shopping cart to wheel through the streets at night, applying "massacre" to a larger context. Men, women, children, the governor; no one was safe from Milford's nightly slaughters. Surprisingly, Milford gained no infamy for his actions, as everyone was simply too busy discussing both "talkies" and Al Jolson to take note of him.

Faster than you can say "Mammy!" Milford's dear Mabel informed him — during one of his lucid periods — that more innocent blood need not be shed, and Milford could simply go down to City

Hall and apply to have a holiday created in her honor. He did just that, and even though Milford had killed many people and had blown off President Franklin D. Roosevelt's left ear, city officials said that they would overlook these minor transgressions if Milford promised that his new holiday would hurt immigrants in some way. He agreed, and to this day it's a Sweetest Day tradition to find an immigrant and throw him or her in a river of your choice.

Of course, after a hostile corporate buyout of Sweetest Day in 1933 by the Hallmark Corporation, such behavior has been discouraged and instead of being tossed into rivers, immigrants now make the tacky merchandise that is emblematic of Sweetest Day. It's called progress, and that's

please see SWEETEST, Page 4

CONCERT REVIEW

The 'OC' rocks Cleveland

By: Jeremy Lydic
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Social Distortion was about two songs into their set, and I was about three beers into my night. Opening act The Dead 60's blew the crowd away with their Clash-influenced upbeats, and now, the kings of west coast punk were obliterating whatever was left. "Good friends, good brew, and good tunes," as the saying goes. There's always a certain air about a show like this. Yet, I was rather unprepared for what happened next.

Standing next to my friend Noah, I felt a slight shove from behind against my legs. I thought someone had fallen, so I turned to help him or her up. Someone was on the ground, but I don't think he needed my help. On one knee, and presenting an impressive diamond ring to the girl in front of him, I think he had the situation well under control.

For a second, the icons on stage took a backseat to the scene in our tightly packed little corner. People around the couple applauded and cheered. The guys high-fived the lucky gentleman, and the women all gawked over his fiancé's brand-new finger décor. Shots were bought, congratulations were voiced, and Social D went on to play an incredible encore.

The whole sequence of events left a lasting impression on me for the rest of the night, and it got me thinking. I've been to many concerts of bands that were viewed as unruly, vulgar, loud, obnoxious, violent and downright abrasive by the general populace. People tend to view certain acts based on face value and never by what actually goes on in the crowd or on stage. And, let's face it - punk

music never makes any apologies for it.

I recall attending the Pledge of Allegiance tour at Penn State University in November 2001, which was headlined by System of a Down and Slipknot, two of the more prominent names in present day heavy metal. On Monday, Nov. 5, staff writers Michael and Matthew Yoder wrote an article in PSU's newspaper, The Collegian. Blatantly bashing the show, the bands, and the crowd, they chastised the show as being vulgar and "nothing more than a traveling circus." They backed their claim with examples of onstage antics from both bands and the actions of the audience members in the mosh pit.

Receiving a plethora of letters to the editor, the Yoders were scolded by metal fans who felt the writers didn't analyze the concert fairly and passed judgment on something they didn't fully understand. To underground music fans, the mosh pit is a utility for releasing stress and frustrations about life. The show itself, in all of its abrasive glory, is a visual and aural result of such stresses and frustrations, and one only has to look at the lyrics and decipher the on stage symbolism to grasp what the genre does for fans.

Most important is the camaraderie in the audience at any given underground show. Be it metal, punk, grunge, or any brand of emotional hard rock, the relationship of the fans to each other is one of the strongest anyone can possibly imagine. Whether they're helping each other up in the pit, or congratulating a newly engaged couple, the fans will always care about each other. It's a level of

please see REVIEW, Page 4