

**BATTER UP:** The YSU softball team took on Wright State this weekend. See PAGE 7.

# The Jambor

The student voice of Youngstown State University

## YSU State bill rolls over unused funds

By: Bill Rodger  
NEWS EDITOR

A state appropriations bill would rollover about \$9 million to Youngstown and Youngstown State University for basic renovations to campus buildings, State Sen. Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown) said Monday.

On March 30, the Ohio Senate passed House Bill 530. The appropriations bill will go to the State House of Representatives for approval and then to Governor Bob Taft to sign into the state's budget.

The money, totaling \$8,911,098 is unused funding as of June 30 this year. The money will go to campus renovations in buildings such as Tod Hall and Beeghly Center and for technology and classroom upgrades.

Hagan said he was confident that Youngstown would get the money and was excited about the appropriation. The senator voted for the bill.

"Anytime we can get additional dollars for Youngstown State University it helps us present a first-class university that all of us believe it is," Hagan said.

YSU spokesperson Ron Cole said that the \$9 million represents money that wasn't used in the 2005-2006 budget.

"In essence, it's money that has already been authorized. It's not new money, but we're always happy to see legislators working on our behalf," Cole said.

Rich White, YSU's project manager for facilities, said YSU would decide how to use the funding for campus improvements.

"We had the money, but didn't have the chance to use it," White said.

White said plans were underway for some of the buildings targeted in the bill. He said improvements were scheduled for Beeghly Center, and could include new flooring, new lighting, paint and a new ceiling.

White said some of the money would have to remain on standby. He said the \$149,000 scheduled for Tod Hall will wait until Youngstown and YSU complete improvements to the Campus Gateway on University Plaza. The improvements, including lighting and landscaping, are a part of

please see **HAGAN**, Page 2

## YOUNGSTOWN



Jambor / Katie Libecco

## Arsons engulf five more homes

By: Katie Libecco  
COPY EDITOR

Two more arsons claimed four vacant homes on Youngstown's North Side near campus Thursday night, and another fire on Sunday that caused significant damage is under investigation, showing a continuation of a string of arsons that began last summer.

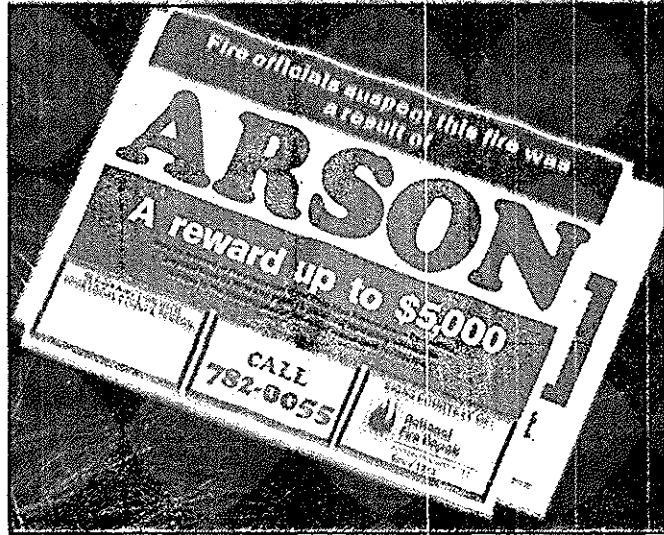
On Thursday, the fires began at 15 Tacoma Ave. and 52 New York Ave. The house on Tacoma caused the adjacent homes on either side, also vacant, to catch fire. The New York fire was reported at 10:58 p.m. Thursday while the Tacoma home fires were reported 15 minutes later at 11:12 p.m.

Another fire was reported at 24 McGuffey Road, Sunday at 3:37 p.m.

Fire reports indicate that the building, one-level and about 624 square feet, was owned by Free Gospel Church. The use was listed as a "1-or-2-family dwelling" for "residential use." However, the report indicated that it was vacant and unsecured at the time of the fire. According to the report, the fire was confined to the living and dining room areas by crews, but there was extensive interior damage.

No arrests have been made, but Youngstown Fire Department's Lt. Kevin Johnson said the department is developing suspects and the fires are under investigation.

According to reports, all four homes on Thursday were completely destroyed and left to burn for safety reasons.



Jambor / Katie Libecco

**TOP:** This home on New York Avenue was one of four destroyed in arsons on Thursday. There have been 51 vacant house fires between Wick Avenue and McGuffey Road since July 1. **ABOVE:** Another fire was reported Sunday, also believed to be an arson. The fire department is asking the public for help in convicting the arsonists. Six firefighters were injured during a similar night of fires on Feb. 5, when three homes were set ablaze within 10 blocks of each other, in less than 30 minutes.

please see **FIRE**, Page 2

## SGA

## Penny, Miller to debate

By: Cheryl Thompson  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Posters and sidewalk chalk campaigns are beginning to appear on campus, marking the start of the Student Government Association election season.

During the last full week of campaigning, students will get the chance to see how each SGA presidential and vice presidential hopeful's platform will impact the university. Students will be able to cast their ballots for new SGA leadership on April 11 and 12.

There will be two Jambor-sponsored debates. The first will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Peabery's Café and a second debate on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Cafaro Residence Hall's Multi-Purpose Room at 7 p.m. Jambor Editor in Chief Leonard Glenn Crist and Copy Editor Katie Libecco will moderate.

Both sets of candidates, Wayne Penny with running mate Andrew Eich and Chad Miller with Sarah Vansuch, said they are prepared to discuss their platforms with students and each other.

Penny said he looks forward to the debates to gain the perspective of the other candidates.

The debates will also give the candidates an opportunity to compare

please see **SGA**, Page 6

## YSU

## Conference remembers Holocaust victims

By: Katie Libecco  
COPY EDITOR

While a speech Monday afternoon addressed the need for documentation and research into the average lives of Jews during the Holocaust, a filmmaker presented a film that detailed her life hiding from Nazis in World War II Germany to a crowd of about 50 at Youngstown State University Monday night.

Dalia Ofer, chair of Holocaust Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and filmmaker Mira Reym Binford gave their presentations as part of the Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program at YSU's "Beyond Numbers, Beyond Names: The Experience of Holocaust Victims."

About 40 people partici-



Jambor / Katie Libecco

Dalia Ofer, chair of Holocaust Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, speaks to the crowd Monday after giving the keynote address, calling for more research into the social aspect of Jews living in World War II.

ated in the keynote address and moving showing on Monday.

Ofer's keynote address, "The Political and the Social - Towards a Comprehensive Interpretation of the Holocaust?" focused on encouraging research in to the social aspects of survivors of the Holocaust. She recommended researching "not how the Jews died, how they lived until their deaths," saying the deaths had often been the center of research.

Ofer said research of the Holocaust during the five decades after 1945 often

please see **CONFERENCE**, Page 2

## YSU

## Mechanic's retirement limits rental services

By: Katie Libecco  
COPY EDITOR

When Youngstown State University geology professor Ray Beiersdorfer called to get one of six university rental vehicles to take students to Columbus, he was told he wouldn't be able to.

Beiersdorfer said he was told the rental pool of vehicles would be shut down for anyone wishing to travel outside the immediate Youngstown area. He said grounds secretary Gretchen Bradley told him no vans were allowed to be taken out of town since mechanic Phil Crish retired.

Crish, YSU's principle mechanic for the past 30 years, officially retired from YSU March 31, although he took a few personal days before his official last day and was not on-campus.

Crish has not yet been

replaced, causing Beiersdorfer and others to question why the position is unfilled.

Associate Grounds Director Tony Siracuse said Crish would look over everything in the van to ensure it was in good condition and was "road-worthy." He said they weren't letting anyone take the vans out of town, because there was no mechanic to ensure the vehicle's safety.

Siracuse said YSU has five 15-passenger vans they rent out to campus departments and organizations. The grounds department charges 35 cents per mile for the usage.

"Say they wanna go to Kent — they can take one of our vans and pay 35 cents a mile. If they rent the van, they're going to pay \$76 for a 15-passenger van.

please see **RENTAL**, Page 4

Weather >> rain / snow  
40 | 32  
wednesday: rain 45 / 34  
thursday: cloudy 53 / 43

**TODAY'S JAMBAR**  
► Classified | 4  
► Entertainment | 8  
► Opinion | 3  
► Sports | 7

**Study session focuses on "The Exodus Story"**  
A Jewish-Islamic study session led by Mustansir Mir and Helene Sinnreich will be held in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center Wednesday at 7

p.m. "Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions: The Exodus Story" is free and open to the public.

**Free concert to be held in Bliss Hall**  
Pianist Jun Okada and

## News Briefs

James Umble, YSU professor of music will present a free concert for saxophone and piano at 8 p.m. tonight at Bliss Recital Hall. The recital will feature compositions by Edison Denisov, Stacey

Garrop, and John Anthony Lennon. For more information, contact the Dana School of Music at (330) 941-3636.

MORE NEWS, PAGE 2

**the jambor poll**  
Last Question Does YSU need an orientation class?  
Today's Question Are you concerned with global warming?  
vote online  
www.thejambor.com  
Online: thejambor.com  
thejambor@gmail.com

YSU

# Relay for Life held in Beeghly

By: Maysoun Abdelrasul  
FEATURES REPORTER

The fifth annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life, a fundraiser for cancer research, will kickoff in Beeghly Center Friday night at Youngstown State University.

Al Stabilito, public relations director for the American Cancer Society in Northeast Ohio, said this event at YSU is the first of 15 scheduled events of the year. It is the only one in the tri-county area to be held indoors because of the unpredictable weather.

About 40 teams are scheduled to walk the first lap inside Beeghly Center at 6 p.m. Friday. Stabilito said he expects 750 to 1,000 participants and about 100 cancer survivors.

The overnight event celebrates cancer survivorship and raises money for research and support programs. Each team keeps at least one member on the track throughout the 18-hour event.

Every year the theme changes, coordinator Beth MacDonald said. This year the theme is Jimmy Buffett and at 7 p.m. Friday night, a cheeseburger-eating contest

is scheduled in correlation with Buffett's song, "Cheeseburger in Paradise." Other events include Ms. Relay, where the men dress up as women and a Relay Idol talent contest.

MacDonald said each of the 40 teams have their own fundraisers, including bake sales and spaghetti dinners.

The goal this year is to raise \$55,000 for cancer research, about \$7,000 higher than last year.

"We always reach for a little higher goal and we are very hopeful to achieve it," she said.

Cancer survivor Lucy Kelly said she is planning to take the first lap with her daughter.

"It is an honor to walk in it," she said. When she is not walking she will be selling luminaries.

She said she was diagnosed with breast cancer 9 years ago. She said the Relay for Life helps cancer survivors realize that they are not alone.

The event is free and open to the public.

Call Maysoun Abdelrasul at (330) 941-3758.

## Relay for Life

### Schedule of events and activities

<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>
6 p.m.: Opening ceremonies with AC & Kelly from Hot FM 101.	12 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.: Various contests-midnight-3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.: Cancer survivors walk the opening lap to start the relay	12 a.m. — 7:30 a.m.: Music by Rising Sun Entertainment
7 p.m.: Cheeseburger eating contest	8:30 a.m.: Karate demonstration by Master Park
8 p.m.: Ms. Relay and Relay Idol contests	11:30 a.m.: Closing ceremonies and award presentations
9 p.m.: Luminary ceremony to recognize cancer survivors	
10 p.m.: Basketball contest	
11:30 p.m.: Best late night snack contest	

Source: American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

### FIRE, continued from page 1

houses set ablaze Feb. 5, was torched again Thursday. Johnson said it was the "third and final time" it was a victim of arson.

Johnson said the fires on New York and Tacoma Avenues were "definitely connected," but couldn't say if they were related to a string of arsons on the city's North Side, which began last summer.

"It's very unusual to see so many fires in such a small area," he said.

Between Wick Avenue and McCuffey Road, there have been 52 vacant house fires since July 1, 2005. Ten vacant house fires were reported since The Jambor reported on the rise in arsons near campus on Feb. 9.

To help combat future arsons, Johnson said the fire department is offering a reward of \$5,000 to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of any known arsonist. Tips may be made anonymously. Johnson said this has been the city's policy for "quite a number of years."

"It's just twisted because someone out there knows something and they're too scared to come forward," he said. "They can call us here [at (330) 782-0055] 24-hours a day."

Johnson said tax companies held titles for houses on Tacoma and New York for back taxes owed. No firefighters or residents reported injuries during the fires.

The cause of ignition for the fires is still unknown.

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

### HAGAN, continued from page 1

YSU's Centennial Campus Master Plan, to be completed by 2008.

In addition to money for the university, the bill would also set aside funding for other city buildings. The Chevrolet Centre is scheduled to receive \$2 million from the appropriations.

The \$8,911,098 would be distributed as follows, according to the bill:

- Basic Renovations: \$2,921,385
- Asbestos Abatement: \$48,154
- Tod Hall Renovations: \$146,979
- Electronic Campus Infrastructure/Technology: \$2,722
- Beeghly Center Rehabilitation: \$13,429
- Campus Development: \$1,430,337
- Chiller and Steamline Replacement: \$92,003
- Ward Beecher/HVAC Upgrade: \$133,987
- Classroom Updates: \$155,948
- Campus-Wide Building System Upgrades: \$858,349
- Technology Upgrades: \$962,153
- Residential Technology Integration: \$34,072
- Masonry Restoration: \$111,580
- Chevrolet Centre: \$2,000,000

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

### CONFERENCE, continued from page 1

focused on political, not social history.

"It's only the beginning. This is only the starting point," Ofer said.

She said research into the social aspect of life for Jews during the Holocaust was just starting, while the political aspect had been well researched.

"What a political history should be interpreted in the context of the complete absence of Jewish political power," she said, noting it was most important to tell the obscure underground voices that would have been obscured by Nazi power.

She went on to discuss some findings of her own research and insight into what others had found.

Ofer summarized her presentation at the end with the statement, "The heroic, the mundane and the corrupted lived together in ghettos. The paradoxes of everyday life reflect them in like a magnifying glass but also in miniature forms."

Binford's movie, "Diamonds in the Snow,"

presented those details of daily life of Jews during WWII. Ofer said she saw as missing from social context. The film told the story of how she and two other young Jewish girls survived World War II by spending years in hiding. Binford was taken from location to location, assuming other identities and hidden from the world — often without her family — to avoid persecution like many of the Jewish residents of Bendzin, Poland, where she was born.

"Diamonds in the Snow" included excerpts from her mother's memoirs, interviews with people who remembered hiding her and other citizens of communities who were present when Poland was occupied by Nazi forces.

Binford said she made the movie foremost because she wanted to produce something that was the point of view of the child and secondly to honor those who risked their lives to save us.

"I hate saying there's a lesson in the Holocaust,"

Binford said wearily before the showing. "But maybe this film says, 'You don't have to be good to do good.' I don't know. Let's see."

"Beyond Numbers, Beyond Names: The Experience of Holocaust Victims" will continue today with panel discussions at 9 a.m., "Outside the Walls, Jewish and Non-Jewish Encounters" and another, "From Generation to Generation: Telling Personal and Family History." At 11 a.m. there will be two more panel discussions, "Jewish Life in Post-War Germany: The Experiences of Displaced Persons" and "Victim Holocaust Memorialization."

The conference will conclude at 1:30 p.m. with "Diaries as Illuminations," which is also part of the Quest student forum which highlights undergraduate and graduate work at YSU.

For more information on the conference or the Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program, contact



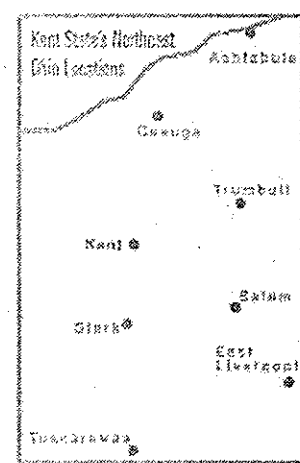
Jambor / Katie Libecco

941-1603.

The conference is free and open to the public. Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

Filmmaker Mira Reym Binford discusses her "Diamonds in the Snow" with the audience Monday evening. The film showing was part of "Beyond Names, Beyond Numbers: The Experience of Holocaust Victims" conference.

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## More news in brief

### Student Art Exhibition scheduled for Friday

The 70th Annual Student Art Exhibition will be at the McDonough Museum of Art Friday through April 21. The Student Art Association, the Department of Art and the McDonough Museum of Art, are sponsoring the show. The reception and awards ceremony will be Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the museum on Wick Avenue. The event is free and open to the public.

# Editorial & Opinion

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-1991

Page 3

**thejambar**  
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## OUR SIDE

### The all too real global warming threat: Action needed now, not later

Here's a startling statistic: of the 20 hottest years on record, 19 have occurred since the 1980s. Even more alarming, the five hottest years on record are, hottest first, 2005, 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Time Magazine's cover story last week warned that we should "Be worried. Be very worried" about global warming. It's no longer debatable, the article declared, global warming is a reality. The more pressing question now is can we reverse it before it's too late?

Recent studies have found the intensity of hurricanes increased 50 percent during the last 35 years, and the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes (like Katrina, which destroyed the Gulf Coast last year) has doubled. There's even the notion that warming sea temperatures might bring hurricanes to northern areas such as New England or Canada, which don't usually see the terrible, furious storms.

In addition to disastrous hurricanes, there is the very real problem of melting glaciers. Should Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets melt completely, sea levels could raise more than 230 feet. That's a worse case scenario, but even a few feet could wreak serious havoc on the world. It's worth noting that 12 of the world's 20 largest cities sit at sea level.

Global warming might even be making you sick. Rises in asthma and allergic attacks can be traced to high diesel emissions, and areas dry from drought and fires only exacerbate the problem.

Much of this is our fault. With gas-hog SUVs and polluting energy plants, we here in the good ol' U.S. of A certainly produce more than our fair share of greenhouse gases. Though the United States has just 5 percent of the world's population, it is responsible for 25 percent of its carbon dioxide emissions. Those emissions trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere, raising temperatures around the planet, which lead to a myriad of alarming environmental problems.

There are signs the world is finally starting to realize what's happening. The Evangelical Climate Initiative, featuring 86 Christian leaders, formed recently to lobby for regulation of greenhouse gases.

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which has cities voluntarily adopting stricter emissions standards, has more than 200 cities on board. In Ohio, so far, only Toledo's Mayor Jack Ford has signed onto the agreement.

Even Wal-Mart has started taking steps to reduce its energy consumption. As their CEO noted, it's not just for the environment, it's for their bottom line. They save money when less energy is consumed.

There are individual things we can do to reduce greenhouse gases, like driving less and driving more fuel-efficient cars and reducing energy consumes in our homes through heating and air conditioning.

But that isn't going to be enough to reverse the warming trend. Fast developing countries like China and India will soon catch up to the U.S. in terms of greenhouse emissions as the demand grows for more automobiles in those most populace parts of the world.

To truly turn the tide and stave off the catastrophic consequences of global warming, the U.S. will need a gargantuan and meaningful commitment toward creating alternative energy sources. Burning fossil fuels for our energy needs is no longer a feasible or sustainable option.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### YSU silently promotes religious intolerance

Editor:

While YSU spends tens of thousands of dollars promoting diversity, the Thursday, March 23 issue of the Jambar did its best to promote religious bigotry. According to the Web site, Children of the Holocaust (www.adl.org/children\_holocaust), religious bigotry is defined as, "prejudice or discrimination one or all members of a particular religious group based on negative perceptions of their religious beliefs and practices or on negative group stereotypes." Bob Mackey's whimsical attack on the most sacred aspects of the Catholic faith and Christianity in general precisely fits this definition. In my seven years on the campus of Youngstown State University, first as a student and now as an instructor, I have disagreed with many things published in The Jambar, but never have I read such a blatant, bigoted attack on the most sacred aspects of a faith.

Naturally, I contacted Leonard [Crist], the Editor of The Jambar, for his take on my concerns. He assured me the author was a staff writer and was once a Catholic. I guess, according to YSU's diversity model, that makes it O.K. In next week's issue, can we expect to see a column on concentration camp underutilized by a former member of the Nazi Party? According to Leonard, that would meet the journalistic criteria for inclusion in The Jambar and, I'm guessing, further demonstrate YSU's commitment to diversity.

Next, I asked why The Jambar would devote so much space to the ramblings of such a narrow-minded bigot. Leonard agreed that the viewpoint was narrow-minded, but, he exclaimed, "It was funny!" Wow, funny... as funny as the cartoons depicting Mohammad in the European Papers. If The Jambar had published "funny" cartoons of Mohammad being ridiculed and berated, I'm sure both Leonard and Mr. Mackey would be unemployed. But I guess at YSU religious bigotry is tolerated, as long as it's funny!

This article was written to be salacious. It was written to "get a rise" out of Christians. It wasn't particularly well written and it certainly was not good journalism. It was social commentary. "Mein Kampf" was social commentary. According to Wikipedia, "Social commentary is the act of sharing one's opinion on the nature of a society to another person. This is most often used with the idea of bringing a change in society by means of informing the general populace of a given problem." By definition, unless the author was hoping to bring about some change, the only purpose of this commentary was hate.

We acknowledge the danger of shouting "fire" in a crowded theater, and the inappropriateness of placing a little innocuous

white powder in a letter and mailing it to a political figure, even if it's funny. Now we know the ramifications of belittling a revered figure such as Mohammad in the press. But, on the campus of Youngstown State University, to make light of the most sacred aspects of Christianity, we acknowledge no danger, admonish no inappropriateness, and ignore the potential ramifications to such an action. And the administrations silence on this commentary speaks volumes about the lip service they pay to diversity.

Now, I don't hold Leonard responsible, he's just some dumb kid that did something stupid. And I don't hold Mr. Mackey responsible, he's just some journalistic wannabe craving attention. No! I hold Youngstown State University responsible. Their silence gives credence to this attack. For a university, supposedly committed to diversity, to allow these hateful neophytes to go on unabated is a disgrace. Most media today, for better or worst, is biased. We recognize Fox as a bastion of conservative thought and the New York Press as liberal. Accordingly, we recognize the political positions of these institutions as conforming to the ideology of their governing bodies. The silence of the governing body of Youngstown State University to this commentary implies an ideological indifference to religious intolerance and hatred.

Paraphrasing Kushand Fanti's article "The Silent Consent," the author begins by questioning, who or what is responsible for providing the feeding grounds for hate and ignorance in today's minds. Why do societies continue to produce people (or institutions) that "ineptly support, even unintentionally those who support discriminative traits?" He argues silence permits ignorance and hatred to flourish. The failure of this University to act results in equal culpability with the author and editor in the creation of an atmosphere of intolerance and hatred and "is responsible for providing the feeding grounds for hate and... ignorance."

While I do not think the university should hold editorial authority over The Jambar or be permitted to censor its content, I do believe the university has a duty to ensure that the persons to whom they grant power do not abuse that power. Should the editor or editorial board of the New York Times suddenly decide to publish a right-wing newspaper, would the governing body act? Youngstown State University's culpability is its silent consent. Just as the German people looked away from Auschwitz, the governing body of this university looks away from religious intolerance.

William J. Shuttleworth,  
Instructor  
Human Performance and  
Exercise Science

Editor's Note: Normally, it is The Jambar's editorial policy not

to comment on letters to the editor. However, because of the personal and inflammatory nature of William Shuttleworth's letter, a retort against his misguided views on Bob Mackey's March 23 commentary is necessary.

Shuttleworth was evidently offended by Mackey's commentary and he has a right to express his opinion. It is an opinion, however, which should be taken with a grain of salt, as Shuttleworth's writing is noticeably prone to hyperbole.

Shuttleworth calls Mackey's commentary religious bigotry, saying that it is prejudiced and discriminatory in its comments. This statement is ridiculous, as any rational person could clearly see Mackey's commentary was a humorous and light-hearted riff on a topic he clearly thinks some people take far too seriously. His commentary in no way calls for discrimination nor offers any hateful messages. He is merely poking fun at some of Catholicism's many quirks.

Four times Shuttleworth invokes the Holocaust, Nazism or Hitler when referring to Mackey's commentary. Mackey's commentary is not advocating a master race, nor calling for the genocidal extermination of a certain race or class of people. To earnestly invoke the horrors of the Holocaust in such a casual way while commenting on a clearly light hearted and humorous commentary does more than a disservice to the 6 million Jews who perished; it cheapens their struggle and dishonors their memory.

Shuttleworth says he doesn't advocate censorship or university control of The Jambar, but his call for the termination of our employment is a textbook definition of censorship after the fact. If a state university were to remove writers or editors from their positions because they wrote or approved something unpopular, not only would it have a chilling effect on future newspaper content, it would also, in all likelihood, be considered unconstitutional.

Shuttleworth seems to be saying it is not alright to criticize religious beliefs, practices or dogmas. However, many religious beliefs, including Christianity and Islam, openly teach that their religion is the best religion, the only religion, and the only way to secure a trip to the afterlife is to be a faithful adherent. The concept of missionaries converting a person from one religion to another is itself a form of criticism that says a person's beliefs are not valid and he or she should convert to a new and better religion. Does Shuttleworth disavow spreading the word of Jesus Christ to non-believers because it is a form of religious criticism?

Furthermore, would Shuttleworth trample on the rights of atheists to express their beliefs? After all, atheism, though not an organized religion per se, is predicated on the criticism of other religions. Atheists reject all religious thought as fantasy (at best) and as a malicious form of

social control (at worst).

It is a truism that certain people will always be offended by something. To modify Abraham Lincoln's famous phrase, you can't please all of the people all of the time. Perhaps Shuttleworth needs to be reminded that one has a right to express unpopular opinions. There is, however, no right to avoid unpopular opinions.

Leonard Glenn Crist  
Editor in Chief

### Mackey reader should lighten up

Editor:

I would like to just say that if Nicole McElroy has ever taken anything Bob Mackey wrote seriously, then she has more to worry about than one newspaper article that parodies the Catholic Church. She SHOULD worry about her tragic lack of a sense of humor.

In her letter to the editor, she whines about how Mackey poked fun at the season of Lent, calling it "a time of intense preparation for Easter." I'm sorry, I didn't realize that giving up trivial things such as chocolate or swearing was so "intense". Also, maybe she would be interested to find out that the tradition of not eating meat on Fridays was started so it could boost the business at a high-ranking church official's floundering fish business (no pun intended).

She also seems to think that his assertion that the Crucifix is unwelcoming and depressing is inaccurate. I beg to differ. When I see a crucifix, I don't see God's love for his "chosen people." I see suffering, pain, and other unpleasant things. My question for Ms. McElroy is this: Why must the Church focus on the bloody, painful part of Jesus' life, instead of his teachings of tolerance, love, and compassion? The church dedicates weeks upon weeks to Jesus' suffering, and one single day to his supposed resurrection. This doesn't seem to focus on love, it focuses on pain and suffering. Maybe a more suitable "mascot" wouldn't be a chicken, but instead, why not have a RESURRECTED Jesus, with open arms?

There was nothing in his article that could be considered "intolerant". It was satire, and if Nicole McElroy and other, like-minded (or should I say closed-minded?) people can't take it for what it is, then maybe they should stop reading Bob Mackey's articles altogether. And God forbid she ever discovers Comedy Central. She may mistake it for the Liberal Gay Jew Terrorist Recruitment Channel.

Someone once said "If you can't laugh at yourself, then you can't laugh at anyone." Take heed of these words, Ms. McElroy. Maybe you'll develop that sense of humor that you are so sorely lacking.

Taylor Dunnivant  
English

SPORTS

# Bambino casts a long shadow

By: Ann Killion  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS  
(KRT)

Babe Ruth casts one mean curse, doesn't he?

If you thought the Curse of the Bambino was broken when the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004, think again. The curse is still in existence. Just look at Barry Bonds.

This baseball season already is a mess for Bonds and the first pitch hasn't even been thrown. He is at the epicenter of an investigation by baseball. He is the subject of national scorn. He is a punch line for late-night comics.

This is the second time in history that someone will try to pass Ruth's spot in history. Will try to hit 715 home runs, one more than the Babe.

And both attempts to break Ruth's record have been miserable, controversial experiences.

Henry Aaron's journey 32 years ago was painful. What should have been a proud, historic moment was almost overwhelmed by hatred, bigotry and fear. Aaron received box loads of hate mail and death threats. He didn't know if he would survive the record-breaking moment. He didn't even receive strong support in his home ballpark.

It's different for Bonds, of course. Though the charge of racism has been on the periphery of this story, the controversy surrounding the Giants left

fielder isn't a result of the color of his skin, but what he has put on or beneath his skin. He has become the poster boy for steroids, not because he's African-American and not because he's the only user, but because his alleged cheating has pushed him and only him into baseball's stratosphere.

Right up there with Ruth and Aaron.

His achievement, assuming he does pass Ruth sometime in the next month, will be viewed as a sad, false milestone that will stand if it stands at all as a testament to the bloated, cheating steroids era.

Bonds & Steroids is now a part of our national culture. A swollen Bonds caricature graces the cover of the New Yorker. Bonds is making regular appearances in David Letterman's top 10.

Bonds has always coveted more recognition. Now he's getting it.

After Aaron passed Ruth on that rainy night of April 8, 1974, he stepped to a microphone and said, "Thank God that's over." Bonds probably won't be able to utter the same words. Because it won't be over. Not with a pending baseball investigation. Not as long as he stays in the game.

The investigation announced by Commissioner Bud "Oh, Am I Late?" Selig was discomfiting on several levels.

Selig specifically mentioned the book by two

San Francisco Chronicle reporters, "Game of Shadows," as the impetus for the investigation. Did he not look at any newspapers over the past three years as the Balco investigation was unfolding? Didn't one of his minions ever say, "Hey, boss, put down 'Garfield' for a minute and read this story about your sport?"

The investigating committee is rife with conflicts of interest. George Mitchell, its leader, is a director with the Red Sox a team that, I suppose, has stayed clean of steroids despite those eye-popping batting averages. Mitchell is also chairman of the board at the Walt Disney Co., which owns ESPN, which has a broadcast contract with Major League Baseball and runs a reality show about Bonds. Disney profits when ratings for baseball games are good and fans are happy.

Of course, none of this is likely to bother Selig, who had no problem acting as the commissioner of baseball while also owning the Milwaukee Brewers. He never met a conflict of interest he didn't embrace.

Will the investigation examine the inherent conflicts of interest in this story? Will it probe how the owners, the union and the commissioner looked the other way while players and their statistics blew up to grotesquely out-of-proportion sizes? Meanwhile, Bonds,

unlike Aaron, will have plenty of support in his home ballpark. People will cheer him. They will scold the media for not doing their job the past decade (forgetting that we don't have subpoena power and that this story unfolded not because of fabulous investigative journalism but as the direct result of a government investigation).

They will applaud Bonds for his unbelievable ability to focus on the task at hand and not be distracted by the bad news (ignoring that such a trait is also the sign of a sociopath, and no one was applauding Scott Peterson or O.J. Simpson for their ability to compartmentalize).

Seventy-one seasons ago, in a game in Pittsburgh, Babe Ruth hit three home runs. He tipped his cap to the fans as he rounded the bases. They were the last homers of his career, setting a barrier that has been neither easy nor satisfying to break.

"I didn't feel a wild sense of joy," Aaron wrote in his autobiography, "I Had a Hammer." "I didn't feel like celebrating."

Few will feel like celebrating when Bonds hits No. 715. It's going to be an ugly season. That is, if the whole thing doesn't get rained out.

Somewhere, the Babe is probably laughing.

RENTAL, continued from page 1

If they keep it over the weekend, they have several days of rental fees," Syracuse said.

Syracuse also said YSU has contracts with several rental agencies that also supply rental vehicles. But Beiersdorfer said he didn't see the alternative as equal.

"I wanted to get one of the vans, which is usually about \$35 a day. But now we have to go elsewhere for the rental, which is going to be about \$70. At a time when we are facing budget cuts, this is doubling our costs," Beiersdorfer said.

Syracuse said the paperwork for the job to be posted was completed "some time ago." Dinah McCamon, a secretary in Human Resources, said the job posting for vacancy created by Crish's retirement was posted Monday morning.

"It's an involved process getting a position filled. We requested the position be filled before he retired," Syracuse said. "It's my understanding that it's a priority position. We expect to get a replacement as soon as possible. I'm not sure what the delay is going to be in terms of time. Hopefully it'll proceed quickly."

McCamon said Human Resources will accept applications for the position until Friday at 4 p.m. She said that typically, when such positions open, a search committee is created and the committee makes recommendations for hiring to the department where the person will be placed. McCamon was unsure if such a committee had been created.

"It's unfortunate that this

is happening because of administrative incompetence. We have these vehicles; we need a mechanic. He announced his retirement. It wasn't anything sudden," Beiersdorfer said.

Crish also performed the majority of maintenance work on the YSU police cruisers, Chief John Gocala said.

"He really did a great job. The university's gonna lose a great guy. He was a gem and a star," Gocala said. "I knew him before he came to YSU, when he worked for the city. He did an outstanding job. He was very meticulous and made sure the cars were repaired and repaired well because he knew how important they were to operation."

Gocala said he wasn't sure who would be working on the cruisers while the mechanic's position was still vacant, but said he was aware of some instances in which the cars were sent to private shops for work.


"Sometimes they would send them out, depending on how many things needed to be fixed. So that's a possibility. But you know I'll be pounding on the walls and tables 'cause those cars need attention," Gocala said. "They need a mechanic."

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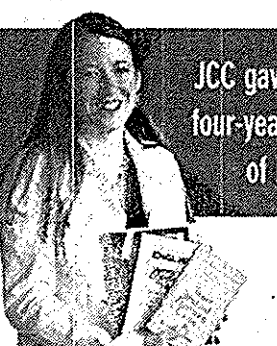
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HEALTH

# Caffeine overload risky to health

By: Lisa Roberts  
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL  
(KRT)

There's a lot of buzz lately about caffeine, from studies about how it affects health to new super-octane beverages that pledge to give you a morning boost, improve your athletic performance and help you lose weight. Caffeine has even made the leap to soap (it's absorbed through the skin, according to its manufacturer), gum and pancake syrup.

As products proliferate and the caffeine gauge edges higher, a question begs to be answered: How much caffeine can we take?

Caffeine is a central nervous-system stimulant that occurs naturally in at least 63 plants. When ingested, it blocks adenosine, a chemical that slows brain activity. That results in alertness and heightened concentration. The effect peaks in 30 to 60 minutes, then tapers off.

Published data shows the per capita consumption level of caffeine for the average adult is approximately 200 milligrams daily. The average child consumes much less caffeine only one-quarter of the caffeine

consumed by adults.

Most health-care professionals consider about 250 to 300 milligrams to be a moderate daily dose. Go beyond that, and you may feel shaky, jittery or anxious and have trouble concentrating or sleeping, says Cynthia Sass, a registered dietitian in Tampa, Fla. You also could temporarily suffer from elevated blood pressure or an irregular heart-beat.

There's probably no reason for alarm if you consume moderate amounts of caffeine, though. "Luckily, research shows that the danger and risks (of caffeine) seem to be very minimal, even when consumed in large amounts," says Dr. George Everett, who practices internal medicine at Orlando Regional Healthcare. "Generally speaking, it's pretty innocuous." Those with heart disease and high blood pressure, though, should watch their intake.

Caffeine is one of the most-studied ingredients in the United States, according to the Food and Drug Administration, which declared it generally safe in 1958. While science has cleared it of contributing to things such as bone loss, birth defects and

chronic hypertension, use of the substance still may have ramifications. For instance, a study released this month suggested that a genetic trait that slows the metabolism of caffeine might increase the risk of heart attacks.

Reaction to caffeine usually is dictated by such factors as an individual's size and how much he or she regularly consumes, Everett says. Larger people can tolerate more caffeine than smaller ones, and an infrequent caffeine user is more likely to react strongly than one who uses it daily. Quitting caffeine suddenly can lead to painful withdrawal, with symptoms including a migrainelike headache, inability to concentrate, nausea and irritability.

During the last decade, the popularity of caffeinated energy drinks such as Jolt, Vault, SoBe Adrenaline Rush and Full Throttle has increased dramatically. According to MarketResearch.com, this market segment grew 700 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Jolene Guichard, who works at a 7-Eleven in downtown Orlando, Fla., has a 16-ounce Monster energy drink on weekdays to help propel her through her busy life, which includes attending classes at Mid-Florida Tech, Orlando, and keep-

ing up with her three children, ages 3 to 7.

"It gives me a nice big boost, like drinking three or four cups of coffee in an hour, but it lasts for eight hours," she says. She used to drink coffee, "but this tastes better."

The energy drinks' actual caffeine content is usually lower than a weak cup of coffee, which has about 85 milligrams. Coca-Cola's Full Throttle, for instance, has 72 milligrams per 8 ounces. Energy-drink manufacturers, however, usually pair the ingredient with things such as sugar, herbal stimulants (guarana and ginseng), and taurine, an amino acid that enhances the effect of caffeine.

"When you put in these multiple things, they have a synergistic affect," says Cynthia Sass, a registered dietitian who teaches at the University of South Florida. Some of her students who have consumed the drinks during all-night drives or studying marathons report having felt shaky, with rubbery legs and pounding hearts, she says.

Though some energy drinks are marketed to athletes, "I really don't think most active, fit adults need the extra calories" they deliver, says Christine Gerbstadt, a doctor and

"Those with heart disease and high blood pressure, though, should watch their intake."



Dr. George Everett,  
Orlando Regional Healthcare

an American Dietetic Association spokeswoman. "Most people are not active enough to burn off the excess ingredients." As for additives such as taurine, "you'd be better off eating a hard-cooked egg or a handful of nuts and getting a better-balanced protein."

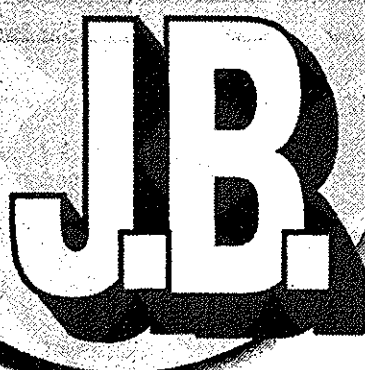
That's not to say caffeine can't enhance performance. Small doses, taken along with sugar, "do give you improved performance," she says.

Too much caffeine, though, can lead to a loss of the focus and concentration that is essential to performance, says Gerbstadt, a marathon runner who uses it with glucose during races.

How much is in 1 cup? Because caffeine has no nutritional value, the FDA doesn't require that it be listed on product labels. And if the stimulant occurs naturally in a product as it does, say, in a coffee bean it doesn't have to be listed as an

ingredient. The FDA recommends calling a product's manufacturer to learn its caffeine content. Some Web sites also can help you tally your intake. The Mayo Clinic's Web site (mayoclinic.com), for instance, provides the caffeine content of popular energy and soft drinks.

Caffeine content is harder to determine in a cup of coffee. In a study released in 2003, University of Florida scientists measured the substance in 16-ounce cups of coffee purchased over six days from Starbucks outlets and found it was from 250 milligrams to 564 milligrams. Chris Gimbl, a Starbucks spokeswoman, says a 16-ounce cup of the company's coffee has about 260 milligrams, though it may vary with the variety of coffee, where it is grown, and how it is roasted, brewed and ground.



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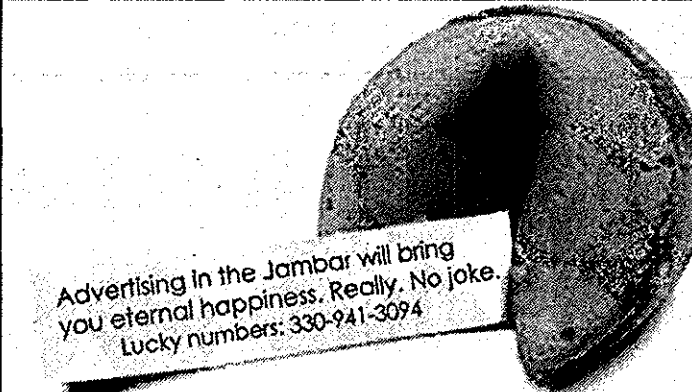
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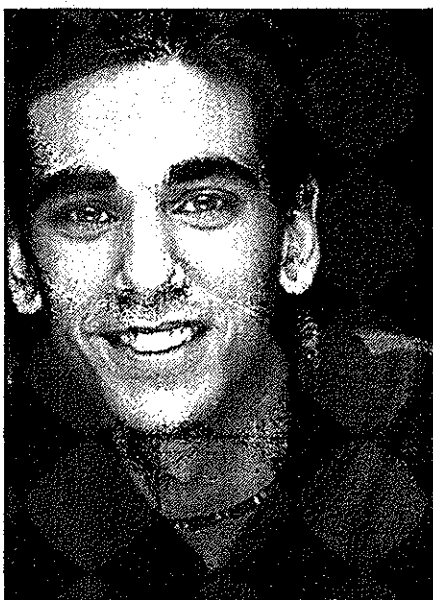
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ENTERTAINMENT

STATUE, continued from page 8

ways I haven't killed people. I've never shot a man just to watch him die. I've never delivered the fatal blow of a swordfight on top of a moving speedboat. I've never poisoned wells, planted land mines, booby-trapped dogs, or set up elaborate devices involving piano wire. Most importantly, I've never gotten a cage of rats and attached it to someone's face, then lit the opposite end of the cage on fire so the rats would have to chew their way out through this person's face. This is how I've gotten to where I am today.

So, art community, I think I've given you enough time to accrue the amount of gold, machinery, and human labor it will take to get the building of this monument underway. The only thing left to do is to wait for the moral community to recognize my feats; but word on the street is that they've gotten a little soft on murder lately. Might I also add that I'm anti-slavery? I rest my case.

Bob Mackey voted for the sheriff but he didn't vote for the deputy. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

SGA, continued from page 1

ideas about campus issues. Both Miller and Penny said the debates would give them insight into the competition's stance on issues.

"I'm interested in seeing more of my opponent's platform. I have a general sense, but there isn't too much out there right now," Miller said.

Penny's running mate, Eich, said they have been preparing for the debates for two weeks.

"We are definitely ready," Eich said.

Key issues on the Penny-Eich platform include wireless Internet, tuition and diversity.

"Diversity is a big issue, not just with SGA, but with campus as a whole. SGA does need to be more diverse. It isn't diverse at all," Penny said.

Miller said he is curious to see if his idea will hold up under questioning.

"I want to see if my platform will stand up to debate-like scrutiny," Miller said.

Vansuch, Miller's running mate, said she anticipates seeing both sides share their platforms.

"Both candidates have such different ideas," Vansuch said. "The clash of ideas should be interesting."

Students will also get to choose SGA representatives for each college on campus, including:

- College of Arts and Sciences, which has 11 candidates and seven open seats;

- Williamson College of Business Administration which has five candidates and four open seats

- Health and Human Services, which has four candidates and eight open seats;

- Fine and Performing Arts, which has one candidate and two open seats;

- The Rayen College of Engineering, which has three candidates and two open seats and

- Beeghly College of Education, which has three candidates and four open seats.

Of the 27 representative candidates, 14 are running for re-election and 13 are new faces.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

# 'Bad' has been very good to John Waters

By: Roger Moore  
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL  
(KRT)

There's good news and bad news for John Waters fans.

He's about to turn 60, and it's not too late to send a card or a piece of kitsch to the cinema's most infamous trash culture vulture.

But if you were looking forward to the party on April 22, well, you've already missed it. He had it early.

"I couldn't wait," he says with a chuckle from where else? Baltimore. But early? A whole industry living in dread of that next birthday, and Waters is embracing the big 6-0. Sort of.

"I have a big art show opening April 21, and I didn't want to confuse the issue, so we did the birthday early in New York," he says. He took over a New York restaurant last week and filled it with friends. The man celebrated the world over for his parties tossed himself a lulu. Not to be confused with luau. Not that he hasn't thought of that.

Waters, the director of "Polyester" ("In Odorama! It's Scentsational!"), "Pink Flamingos" and "Hairspray," appeared and lectured on "bad taste," bad movies, and being John Waters at the Florida Film Festival on the afternoon of April 1.

"I talk about everything from show business to fashion to crime to celebrity to television, advice to kids who want to become old-fashioned juvenile delinquents, to tips on style," he says. "It's a self-help seminar for people who want a bad influence. I hope to be a filth elder for people."

He waits a beat. "Well, the elder part is true, that's for sure."

He will do so as a man who stares down his 60th from a vaunted vantage point that is absurdly mainstream. Absurdly for a guy who made his name with a movie starring an obese drag queen who ate the inedible "canine residue" Roger Ebert tactfully called it on screen.

"Hairspray," the movie musical based on the stage musical that was built on his hit movie, is about to go before the cameras.

"I don't own 'Hairspray,'" he says. "New Line Cinema owns 'Hairspray.' I own a tiny bit of it. But I wish them well. Really well."

He is the host of "Movies That Will Corrupt You" on Here!, a gay cable channel.

"Go to Heretv.com and see the trailer. It's \$20.99 a month. I tell everybody that it's cheaper than a bottle of 'poppers' (amyl nitrate)."

The guy who brought "Female Trouble" and "A Dirty Shame" to theaters knows about corrupting movies.

"I've showed everything from 'Irreversible,' which I couldn't imagine they'd let me show on TV 'Freeway,' 'L.I.E.' Movies most people have not seen, and that will startle you. They did me."

He likes the idea of being a "corrupting" influence, he jokes. It's not that he wants to shock. Waters never has. Even when obese drag queen Divine was chasing around that doggie. Even when he was putting the nearly nauseating Mink Stole on the screen.

"Shocking is not what I'm so interested in. Surprised I want to be startled by wit. That's what I look for when I go to the movies. Stupid movies shock me. Being gross is easy, and people are trying too hard, these days. All the taboos have been broken. The Golden Age of Trash has been over for 20 years! It has! Ever since porno became legal, what's left to shock? Porno has a star system, just like Hollywood, now.

"I never understand people who say, 'I just want a movie that entertained me and made me feel good.' I hate those kinds of movies. I feel good before I go to movies. I don't have to go to a movie to feel good."

The Waters image is fun, naughty, nasty, verboten fun. When "The Simpsons" needed a character who

could puncture homophobia and explain gay camp, they brought in Waters. And what's more apple pie than a hit movie that becomes a hit musical starring John Travolta?

"Fat girls, all over America, can get the lead in the school musical, thanks to a little movie I made in the '80s. Isn't that great?"

It's all part of that "mainstream" label that Waters both embraces and eschews. When critic David Thomson wrote, in an appreciation in "The Biographical Dictionary of Film," that Waters had "mellowed" and, in effect, sold-out in his middle age, Waters promptly produced "A Dirty Shame," an NC-17-rated romp through depravity that was as "out there" as anything he'd ever done. Not that Waters was reacting to Thomson, or anybody else, he says.

"I haven't changed my taste in anything at all over the years. I'm still listening to the same 45s I stole as a teenager."

Still, he professes surprise that people find his success so unlikely, "a kid who started reading Variety at 12, who had a successful magic act in his teens, who has worked at being a showbiz success since childhood." "Yeah, I'm crazy. Always have been. But it's paid off for me."

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**Where to pick up an application:**  
Applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. One application applies for all three publications—simply check the position(s) you are most interested in.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
1 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2006.  
Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.

- ▶ 4/4 — Baseball @ Akron
- ▶ 4/4 — Softball @ Robert Morris
- ▶ 4/5 — Baseball @ Duquesne
- ▶ 4/5 — Softball vs. Canisius

YSU FOOTBALL

## Offseason indicates success for the penguin football team

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

With nearly 30 seniors on the spring roster, Youngstown State football head coach Jon Heacock should have a slightly less taxing off-season.

The Penguins are coming off an 8-3 record, their first ever Gateway Conference title and a narrow miss in the playoffs. The Penguins finished the season ranked 14 in both the ESPN/USA TODAY poll and the Sports Network poll. The post-season ranking was the first since 2001.

"For the most part, when you're an older football team I think you are already farther along as far as in preparation and schemes and plans and plays and defenses and those kinds of things," Heacock said of the weight placed on experience. "They understand what is expected."

Heacock said the hardest aspect of being a team with some history is keeping the old routine new.

"I think that's the thing. As coaches, we have to do a great job of being innovative and yet focusing on the things that really matter in football. That will be our challenge with this group in the spring," Heacock said.

"As coaches, we have to do a great job of being innovative and yet focusing on the things that matter in football."



Jon Heacock, YSU  
Head Football Coach

The experience factor is always important in April, Heacock said. Spring camp got underway Monday afternoon and will culminate with the annual Red and White game played on April 28.

Heacock said that one of the most important aspects of spring camp is creating a unity and seeing his team come together.

"We need to get some cohesion in our units," Heacock said.

Senior offensive lineman Ryan Jewell said that following last year's disappointing finish, the senior laden team is more eager than ever to get back to work and to finish what was started last season.

"It just adds on to wanting to get back out and just compete. I think this spring especially we're going to have a lot of guys going at it. I think that's what is really going to take us to the next step," Jewell said.

Jewell also said that watching

conference foe Northern Iowa reach the National Championship makes the Penguins realize what must be done this season.

"I felt that we played poorly against Northern Iowa and just seeing them get all the way to the National Championship Game just really digs it deep into you and makes you want it even more."

Senior defensive back Jason Perry said that there would be no excuses this season and that everything the Penguins achieve would be the result of hard work.

"If we are 10-0 or 9-1 we are going to the playoffs because we made that possible and it wasn't in the hands of anybody else," Perry said. Perry was voted second team all conference last season and recorded two interceptions.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

YSU

## New coach aims to bring perfection to the YSU defensive line

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

Perfection. That is a word newly hired Youngstown State football defensive line coach Antoine Smith wants his defense to believe in and to emulate. No shortcuts and no excuses.

The adherence to the belief in perfection was evident during his first official practice as a Penguin on Monday afternoon, as he forced his defensive front to re-break a huddle following the end of the first spring camp practice.

Smith, who joined the Penguin staff from Lafayette University, said he wants to instill the idea of perfection on the defense, or at least the never-ending pursuit of perfection.

"Everything we do is perfect," Smith said in his Stambaugh Stadium office. "And if it is not perfect, it is as close to perfect as possible."

Smith should know about being as close to perfect as possible as he was an integral part of the Lafayette defense that ranked eleventh nationally in total defense, allowing just 296 yards and 17 points per game.

YSU ranked first in the Gateway Conference last season in scoring defense, allowing just 16.2 points per game.

Smith said he wants to bring some of that success here to Youngstown and said he believes the pieces of the puzzle are in place for that to happen.

"I think if we can condition our minds we can be pretty darn successful," Smith said.

Smith also said that part of the reason that he made the venture to join the Penguin ranks were the traditions and legacies that the YSU program has created and that while win-

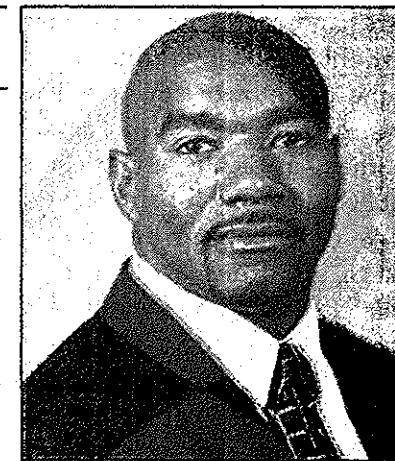


photo courtesy of YSU Sports

ning a Gateway title is always a goal, the possibility of a National Championship was too much to pass up.

"It is about time I do something other than win conference championship rings," Smith said of his success in the Patriot League where he won two titles. "I want to win the big one."

Smith will have the chance to grab another conference ring this fall, as he will be part of a defense that won a ring during the last campaign. He also talked optimistically about the Penguins defense and the returning players that will anchor the front lines.

"We have a good group of kids," Smith said. "They have good attitudes."

Attitude, it seems, goes along way with Smith, who played college football and graduated from the University of Maine in 2001. Smith mentioned that his attitude at this point is positive with an open mind, and he expects nothing less from his players.

"If you don't challenge yourself to the max you will never be great," Smith said. "I think they will learn a lot from me and I will learn a lot from them."

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

YSU SOFTBALL

## YSU softball finishes weekend 2-1 against Wright State Gators

A six-run sixth inning doomed the Penguins softball team as Wright State took home Sunday's contest by a score of 11-3. The Penguins (5-9, 2-1) had the game tied until the disastrous sixth inning before WSU (1-22, 1-2) went on an 8-0 run to earn their first win of the season.

The Penguins were more opportunistic Saturday afternoon, sweeping Wright State in the double header, winning the first game by a tally of 5-4 and 6-4.

The Penguins were led by infielder Tiffany Patteson, who had a career day, breaking the YSU career doubles mark. The Penguins continued to roll as infielder Lucy Hess hit

her first homerun of the season.

The Penguins pitching was also on target Saturday behind the play of junior Tricia Hilbish, who threw seven scoreless innings. The performance by Hilbish earned her the Horizon League Pitcher of the Week award after allowing just four hits total against Wright State.

The Penguins resume action today, traveling to Robert Morris at 2 p.m.

**RIGHT:** Pitcher Karlie Burnell winds up for a pitch against a Wright State opponent at McCune Park Sunday.

**BELOW:** Sophomore Allyse Ledford connects with a pitch.

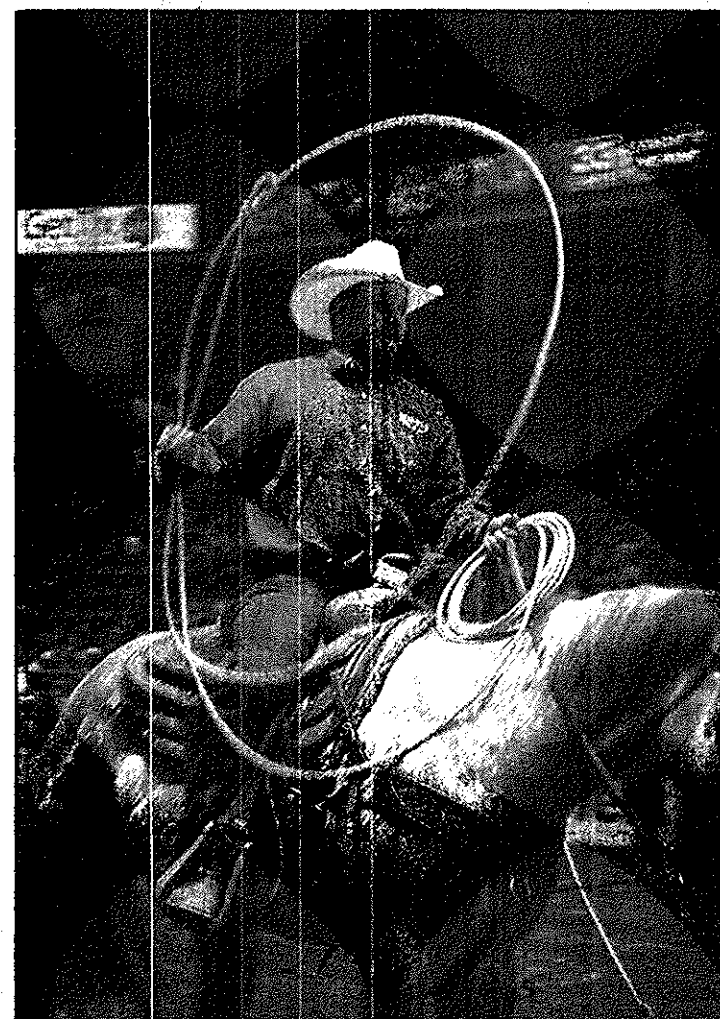


Jambar/ Katie Libecco



Jambar/ Katie Libecco

## Rodeo Rider



Jambar/ Katie Libecco

The tour's wrangler rides to the back of the arena after roping a bull at the Professional Bull Rider's Battle of the Bulls Enterprise Tour at the Chevrolet Centre Friday night. The Chevy Centre will host a show featuring Lipizzaner Stallions tonight and Wednesday.

COMEDY

## College Humor writer releases CD

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

For the past two years, a great silent majority has been amassing in America. Too afraid to speak their minds for fear of the repercussions, these people sit with their hands tied while great injustices and outright blasphemy are being carried out in the name of the masses. These people must grind their teeth in agitation as yet another fan of blue-collar comedy yowls out "Git-'R'-Dun."

Well, it's beyond time for someone to take a stand and writer-comedian Steve Hofstetter could be the guy to do it. With his new CD proudly featuring Larry the Cable Guy hung in effigy, the 12-track album, "The Cure for the Cable Guy" briefly pokes fun at Larry and includes socio-political comedy on topics such as the war on drugs, racism and U.S. foreign policy.

His beef with Larry? Well, it's written up in a mini-manifesto on the CD cover. Hofstetter said he shoots to be a "thinking man's comic," while he says a comedian of

Larry's breed just capitalizes on ignorance, racism and the status quo.

"I'm someone who believes that artists have a responsibility to educate while entertaining... [Bill] Hicks, [George] Carlin, [Richard] Pryor - all the greats made us laugh while dealing with real issues," Hofstetter says.

Hofstetter, a syndicated humor columnist, the head writer for Web site www.CollegeHumor.com and a television executive for the upcoming Comedy Express network, has more of a casual college-guy vibe to him than dark humor kings like Hicks and Carlin. His social commentary on politics and racism goes down a little easier. He lampoons racism through stories of his adopted black sister.

"Racists just use generalizations based off of one or two people. That to me doesn't make any sense... I'm not offending any racists in the crowd tonight, am I? That would be a little awkward," Hofstetter quips. "I'll have to talk to a racist one day and say 'Man, I hate those black people, uh, because they're always

reading my diary!"

The CD is a good effort for the 26-year-old Hofstetter, but falls a little short by including too much standard standup clichés. With acts like Carlos Mencia floating around, racial humor is becoming intolerable, but only because it's being beaten to death by every comedian who wants a cheap "I'm edgy!" laugh. And yes, just like every Comedy Central standup special, there's more "guys are like this, girls are like this" gags than should be allowed by law.

The CD can be ordered off Hofstetter's Web site, next to a large archive of hate mail he received during his writing career. Hofstetter is a guy who could spread himself thin over his projects, but he could have promise as a comedian if he ditched some of his weaker bits in favor of his jokes like:

"In the last election I went with Gore over Bush, but when I rent movies it's the other way around."

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

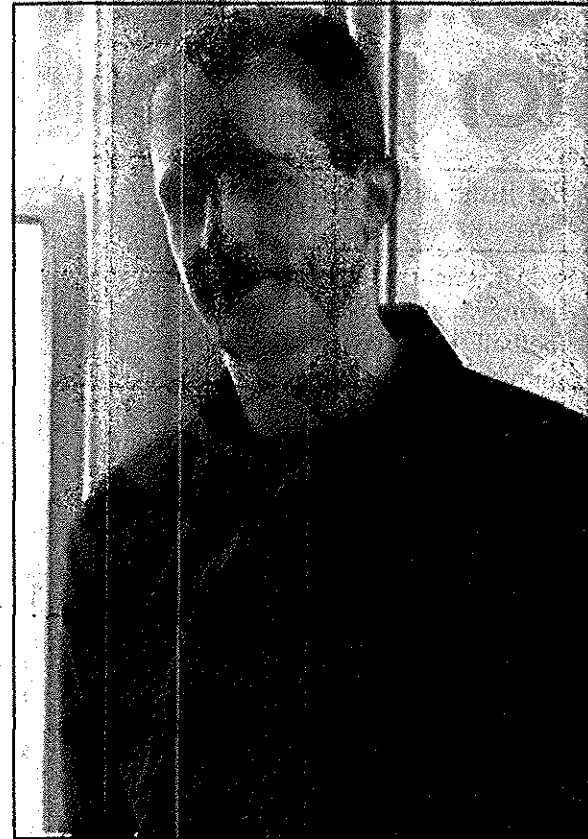


Photo courtesy of SteveHofstetter.com  
Steve Hofstetter, CollegeHumor.com's head writer, has released a CD of stand-up comedy, titled "The Cure for the Cable Guy."

COMMENTARY

## Mackey's anti-murder monument

By: Bob Mackey  
COLUMNIST

It's easy to stereotype Americans as lazy, shiftless bastards who live lives of complete inaction. In a society where elitism springs forth from subcultures dedicated to abstaining from smoking, drinking and eating meat, this stereotype makes perfect sense. The great march — or the perhaps limp, downhill slide — of doing nothing has recently shown itself to be commendable with the announcement of the Britney Spears Pro-Life monument. Entitled "Monument to Pro-Life: The Birth of Sean Preston," the statue depicts a naked Britney Spears on her hands and knees about to expel her mucus-coated son on the back of a bearskin rug. While childbirth is one of the most horrific sights known to man, and the presence of a bearskin rug calls matters of breeding into question, I feel that this monument is a great advancement in the field of inaction — a field I hope will someday be lucrative for celebrities and non-celebrities alike.

While I am a fan of being rewarded for natural biological processes, I don't exactly agree with the pro-life message of the Spears statue. Ask anyone that knows me, and they'll tell you that I'm a huge fan of abortion. Just hearing the word "abortion" makes my ears perk up and my mouth overflow with details of one of the medical miracles of Western civilization. Why, I could get a big bucket of spaghetti and talk about abortion all night! But the true sentiment of the statue is what's important to me, and I've come up with a way to be rewarded with my own tribute for not doing anything.

I've been called many names in my life — ignorant, simp, Nazi, Robert — but there's one insult that has never been directed at me: murderer. Not being a murderer is one of my finest qualities, and something I define myself by, as well as

something I put on job applications. Often, when walking away from spirited conversations with my peers, I hear comments like "Wow, he didn't murder us. What a guy!" and "It takes a brave man like him to not murder anyone." It's time to take this recognition to a national level.

The Bob Mackey Anti-Murder Monument will stand 300 feet tall and be made out of solid gold. It will depict me, standing on a zebra-skin rug next to someone, obviously not murdering them. While I will be depicted as 30 stories high, the anti-victim will be of normal stature, emphasizing my lifelong vow to "just say no" to murder. My statue's size is not just because of my ego, you see; it strengthens my anti-murder beliefs by showing that if I lacked self-control, it would be easy to crush my tiny rugmate with massive golden shoes that — when completely laced — will weigh upwards of fifteen tons. This theme carries over to the statue's base, which will have an inscription that reads, "We are alive today because he decided not to murder us."

The statue will be placed in the center of a major city, and hourly its sound system will ring out with my own personal messages of anti-murder. "I don't know about you guys, but I'm not a murderer," will be the statue's most popular utterance. I can see cars pulling over just to hear the messages, and the drivers saluting me, hoping one day to not be murderers — just like me. And should any of these fans aspire to be like me so much that their inactions merit another anti-murder monument, my statue will have already expended the world's supply of gold, making the construction of a new one pointless and wasteful.

I can understand a lot of people saying that not having an abortion is different than not murdering, as abortion is a legal process in most states, while murder involves lengthy trials, jail time and people calling you



Art by Nick Daniel

by your first, middle, and last name; I don't want people knowing my middle name is Wayne, and this includes Nancy Grace. Yet, each and every day I must fight the temptation to not murder. In today's secular pro-murder culture, I find myself surrounded by images that glorify murder, in everything from breakfast cereals to handgun owner's manuals. Even neighborhood dogs have been giving me secret messages to take out important

political figures. Despite not murdering having no clear reward, I fight my demons every day. At least not aborting results in a person you can eventually turn into a small version of yourself, who will be contractually obligated to absorb love even after your significant other leaves you for having a baby. We non-murderers have no one.

And it's not just that I haven't killed people. I also deserve this statue for the please see **STATUE**, Page 6

PLAY REVIEW

## 'J.B.' explores Biblical ideas in modern world

By: Cheryl Thompson  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In two hours, one play links circus actors, The Bible and death.

Black Box Productions is presenting "J.B.," a modern retelling of the Biblical story of Job, in Youngstown State University's Spotlight Theater. The piece explores the reality of suffering and the questions raised as a result of suffering.

"J.B." is a verse drama dealing with the question of good and evil in the world, trying to answer the question: Why do bad things happen to good people?

The play opens with two circus actors who decide to act out the story of Job. Mr. Zuss, played by Jonathan Yurco, takes on the role of God, complete with a white robe adorned with the image of a lamb and cross, coupled with a cloud-like mask.

Mr. Nickles, played by Vaughn Schmidt, plays the part of Satan, donning a dark gray and blood red cape paired with bitter black mask.

With the roles of God and Satan spoken for, all that remains is the role of Job. Job being the human element for God and Satan to test.

As Zuss says, there is always someone to play Job. Through their respective roles, the pair picks an unwitting J. B. to serve as their guinea pig.

Meet J.B., played by Michael Grantz. The man seems to have everything: a successful career as a banker, a lovely wife and five wonderful children. He has it all and acknowledges that God is behind his good fortune.

He and his family praise God on a routine basis. Everything is going great for J.B. But what if things were different? What if everything was suddenly taken away from him? Would he still praise the Lord so enthusiastically? Satan insists that when faced with seemingly unbearable hardships, J.B.

will curse God, turn his back and denounce him.

Then the torture begins. J.B.'s children are killed, with each death more tragic than the last. He also loses his home, suffers painful burns and is left by his wife.

While observing the pain inflicted upon J.B., Satan is waiting for the straw that breaks the camel's back, the one event that will cause him to curse God. But J.B. refuses to turn his back on God. Even after all he's gone through, he remains steadfast in his belief that God is good and merciful, that God has a plan from his suffering.

Following each of the performances is a forum in which audience members can discuss thoughts and issues with cast members as well as with religious, educational and community leaders.

Speakers representing Catholicism, Father George Belasko, and Judaism, Rabbi Joseph Schonberger, discussed concepts presented in "J.B." after the April 2 performance. Belasko and Schonberger agreed the play, although dark, was about hope, accepting imperfection and faith.

"This play shows us that we need to nurture the seeds of hope. Bad things are relative," Belasko said.

Because J.B. persevered, his life was restored at the end of the play. Schonberger said this shows the importance of keeping the faith even in bad times.

"We learn through the story of Job that we have to keep going against despair," Schonberger said.

In addition to Catholicism and Judaism, the symposiums feature experts on Hinduism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Islam, modern metaphysical philosophy and psychology.

Three performances are left, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Spotlight Arena Theater in Bliss Hall. For ticket information, call the University Theater Box Office at (330) 941-3105.