



Shortfall causes budget concerns

By LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar

An unsuspected \$200 million shortfall in the state budget may mean further budget woes for YSU and other state universities.

Ohio's Senate Finance and Financial Institutions met last week to discuss and vote on the state's budget, which would have increased funding for higher education, saving YSU from a loss of \$1.4 million originally proposed by state



DANN

legislators. Sen. Marc Dann, D-Youngstown, said the current budget was passed by 24 votes last Thursday and was

on its way to the state Conference committee.

However, in a press release via e-mail from Ohio's Senate Minority Caucus, they announced Wednesday evening that there was a revenue shortage reported from

the state's budget office of \$200 million.

In a phone interview with Kurt Wesolek, legislative aide for Sen. Ron Amstutz, R-Wooster, he said the estimates the House and Senate have

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Program reaches Valley students

By ALICIA HOUSTON
The Jambar

The Early College High School Initiative, a college preparatory program designed to reach underrepresented students, could begin at YSU within a year, according to information provided by YSU officials.

The program, still in its planning stages, would place up to 400 students from the three Youngstown City High Schools on the campus of YSU to earn their high school diplomas and attend college courses.

It would allow first generation, low-income students to obtain an associate's degree or two years of college credit and the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree.

Information provided by Robert Bolla, dean of Arts and Sciences and chair of the executive committee overseeing the project, states the Early College high schools are small, autonomous schools of no more than 100 students per grade level.

Some of the primary goals of the program are to eliminate the need for college searches during a student's senior year of high school, to make college more affordable for low-income students and families and to provide guidance and coaching from adults through the first two years of college.

Students selected for the program are academic underachievers from low-income families who show potential to improve. Primarily, the program targets students who would not otherwise attend college.

Richard Bretz, special assistant to the Provost, says that members of the executive committee are currently drafting a plan to finalize the initiative, which should be approved by June 20. If approved, the high school students will begin their courses on campus in the fall of 2004.

In the next five years, 94 Early College high schools will be established throughout the country. Funding for these schools would come from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, through the Bill and Melinda

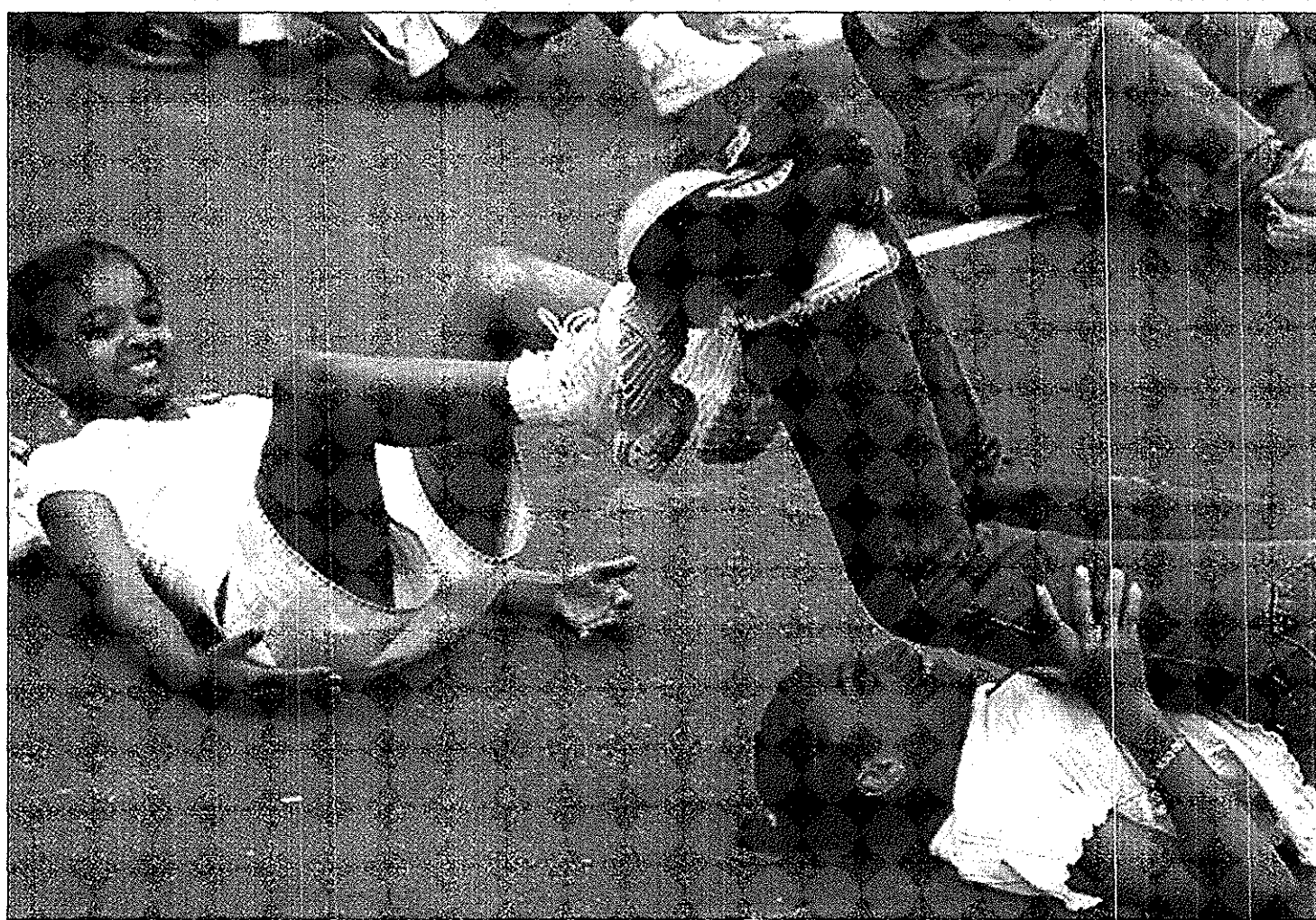
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FEET ONLY



BJ Lisko/The Jambar

NYSP: Local children participating in the National Youth Sports Program participate in a foot relay on the basketball courts outside of Fedor Hall. Teams of seven raced to pass objects using only their feet.

Atwater selected for diversity seminar

By REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar



Jambar file photo

PROVOST: YSU provost Tony Atwater was one of 23 national candidates asked to attend the American Association of Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Initiative.

A top-level YSU administrator is one of 23 national candidates selected to participate in a weekend leadership seminar geared toward enhancing diversity in university president roles.

Provost Tony Atwater was asked to attend the American Association of Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI), held this year from June 13 to June 16. The conference, Atwater said, centers on professional development, especially of minorities.

"The Millennium

Leadership Initiative (MLI) is a focused leadership development program designed to strengthen the preparation and eligibility of persons who are traditionally underrepresented in the roles of president or chancellor in our nation's colleges and universities," according to the AASCU Web site.

Atwater, who is the first person to represent YSU at the 4-year-old conference, said he is very excited to be attending what he calls the "rather prestigious" program.

"It is an honor to be accepted," Atwater said. "It's very important in terms of

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Dog Ears not barking with YSU students

By JIM VISINGARDI
The Jambar



ECKMAN

Student Government Association President Emily Eckman sat relaxed in a chair next to her desk located in

her office in Kilcawley Center. The overcast sky dimly lit her office through the window, as she pondered why the YSU student body has not supported her recent project to make books affordable at <http://www.dogears.net>.

"It's a little frustrating because it is such a good program for students to use,"

Eckman said.

Dog Ears is a Web site, designed by four students at Columbia University, for students to exchange textbooks. The site also offers a forum for students to post their comments on professors and classes the university offers.

Eckman said she stumbled across the web site by accident

and knew right away that this idea would be great for YSU students to use.

"It seemed like a perfect fit for YSU," she said.

Eckman, a frustrated student herself, has been searching for a solution for the past six months to lower the cost of

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American studies master underway

By REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar

Students in the American Studies program may soon be able to pursue a master's degree at YSU, say officials.

The program, which is still in the development stages, would be the first of its kind in the nation, focusing on "urban industrial 20th century working class culture," Sherry Linkon, director of American Studies, said.

The cost to implement the program would be minimal, Linkon said.

"Ultimately, it should pay for itself."

Linkon said the only monies needed to start the program would be for promotion and graduate assistants, though the American Studies budget does allow money for promotion.

In a survey of YSU juniors and seniors enrolled in courses related to

American Studies, almost 40% said they would be interested in the program, she said.

She said, currently, there are six undergraduate students majoring in American Studies, though there are several more students who chose the program as a minor. The proposed change would more than double the enrollment in the American Studies department, she said.

The intended program is unique due to its focus on marketable skills, she said. Students would be able to work with cultural institutions through partnerships with museums and the Ohio Historical Society.

"We have really good reasons to believe that there are jobs for people in this area [beyond teaching]," she said, though, the program may appeal to secondary education teachers.

About 12 students are expected to enroll the first year of the program, though Linkon said she expects that number to at least double in subsequent years.

The M.A. in American Studies would join 30 other master's degree programs at YSU, in addition to one doctoral program and eight certificate programs.

Linkon said the American Studies program could be ready by fall 2004.

YSU is also creating masters' in financial economics and in social work. The degree in social work is possible for fall 2004. However, the department is waiting for the administration to okay the hiring of

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Inside today's issue:

Athletic departments announce new coaches, recruits. Page 4

thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice Of Youngstown State University

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Staind takes different approach with new album. Page 4



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books and raising the price of buy back.

Currently, only 10 schools are enrolled in the Dog Ears program, with some of the most elite universities in the country as some of its main users. The University of Michigan, Columbia University and Boston University are a few.

However, the difference between these universities and YSU is that students at these schools have taken advantage of Dog Ears while only 48 YSU students are currently enrolled.

But Eckman believes there is hope for the program. Starting this fall all incoming freshmen will be registered with Dog Ears. Also, current YSU students would be registered through their CUE-mail accounts when they sign up for

the fall semester.

Eckman said SGA has tried several ways to educate YSU students about Dog Ears, but nothing seemed to work.

She said sending students an e-mail through CUE-mail was an option, but was too difficult because it had to be approved through the President's office.

"So we had to search for alternative routes of letting the students know about this site," Eckman says.

Though, she said registration for Dog Ears through class enrollment now seems like the most sensible idea.

"I have enough confidence that this site can work, so hopefully they have enough confidence in me," she said.

Call Jim Visigardi at (330) 941-1811.

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been working with are "off."

Wesolek said House Bill 95 dealing with the state's budget had \$134 million earmarked for higher education for fiscal year 2004 and \$91 million for FY05. He said with this current \$200 million gap in the budget, "the Conference committee will have to come up with new numbers."

"This creates a situation," Wesolek said.

YSU, which lost \$5.5 million from the state in the spring, may be forced to make tough decisions in the future. University President David Sweet said in a CUE-mail addressed to the community last semester that any further changes to the budget could, "force YSU to re-evaluate its current workforce."

Wesolek said, "K-12 and

higher education has been a big priority," but said this shortfall probably means, "further cuts in funding for programs and could very well include higher education."

Sweet said the university is aware of the current situation in Columbus and could still begin the fiscal year with the revenues the state will be providing. But, he said, "revenues may fall short."

Sweet said he would also be waiting to see what the Conference committee says. The Conference committee began meeting Wednesday morning.

He said the university is "budgeting in a time of uncertainty," but said, "you always have to expect the unexpected."

As the state tries to grap-

ple with the current fiscal strains, Wesolek said he does not know who is exactly to blame for this shortfall, but said, "everyone is pointing fingers." Wesolek cited the Ohio Budget Management office as being responsible for giving financial forecasts. He said he was aware of three times in which the projections by the OBM have been incorrect.

"There are people questioning [OBM] reliability."

Wesolek also said the incorrect forecasts could be due to the poor economy, causing the revenue projections to be incorrect.

Jack Irvin, legislative aide for Sen. Larry Mumper, R-Marion, says the Conference committee is going to review everything. He said Mumper would be the lead senator dur-

ing the Conference committee. Irvin also said he believes it is too early to truthfully discuss the impact of the budget gap.

Wesolek noted that he believes the state will make it through FY03 without making any more cuts, but said the state Senate is dealing with, "a sticky situation."

Sweet may not have a definite answer to whether layoffs are in the future until the beginning of FY04, which starts July 1.

Whatever the cuts if any, Sweet said, "We will continue to maintain our goal of providing a quality education."

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two new faculty members and a field coordinator.

Social Work department chair Joseph Mosca said the curriculum, syllabi and paperwork for

accreditation are ready, they are just waiting for administration to allow for new hires.

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-1913.

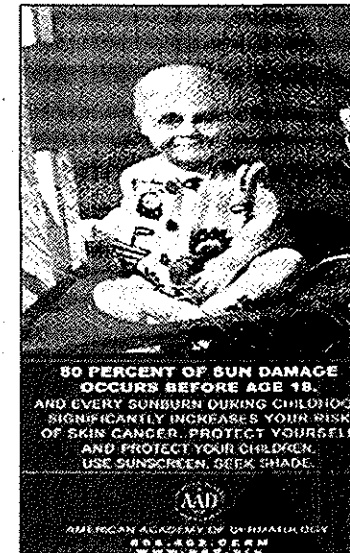
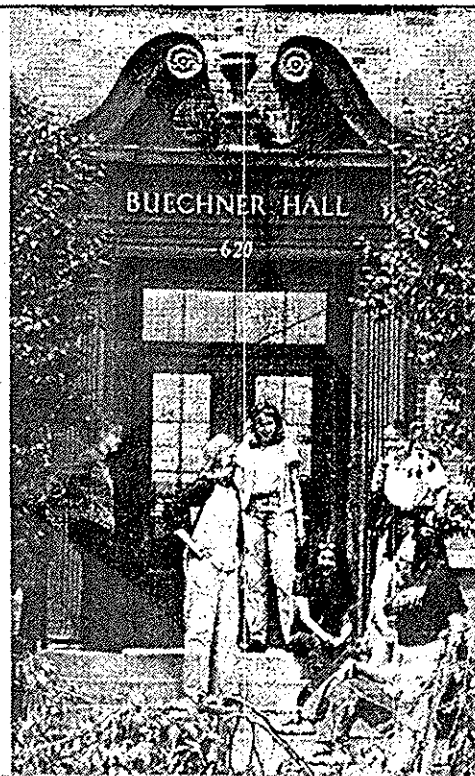
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Today's Editorials

Question to Bush: Where are weapons of mass destruction?

The facts are emerging: Bush declared war with questionable evidence.

President George W. Bush told the American people and Congress that Iraq posed unprecedented threats to our nation. He talked of weapons of mass destruction, filling people with fear. He even went as far as to say he knew where they were.

The truth is now surfacing. In the best scenario, his statements were misleading. In the worst, he lied.

As college students taught to believe in the American system of government, this latest revelation should touch off a firestorm of protest on campuses across the country.

Bush has been pounded day after day with editorials and stories documenting his massive mis-step. He hasn't flinched. He has done nothing to explain the situation to the American people. So, it is now up to us — the guardians of the future. We must speak out and tell Bush and other leaders that we will not tolerate lies, deceit and manipulation.

For Bush there is only one simple question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction?

Where are the "tons of thousands" of chemical and biological weapons that Bush promised?

Where are they?

In the beginning, some were skeptical about a war with Iraq. But many felt it their duty as citizens to stand by the president.

He broke his promise and now good Americans must do whatever is necessary to restore truth, integrity and honor to the highest office in the land.

U.S. inspections have found nothing, but Bush has continued to distract the American people from the real issue. He has ignored our questions with comments about Iraqi freedom, instead of answering the question of where are the weapons of mass destruction.

Where are the weapons of mass destruction?

No response from Bush.

Instead, he now states that with time, Iraq's "weapons programs" will be uncovered.

The logical question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction?

It has been suggested that if Bush deliberately lied to the American public — persuading them to accept a war that could not be otherwise justified — his scandal could be worse than Watergate. We can only agree.

If we entered a war and destroyed a country all for one belief that we would be saving the world and our nation from horrific terror, and none of this pans out to be true, Bush is no better than President Nixon and others who have broken the public's trust.

The United Nations had asked that the U.S. allow their inspectors to continue their searches. Bush would not hear of it. He assured the public that the weapons of mass destruction were there and the country had to act now.

The question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction?

College students have an obligation to future generations to keep asking this question and to listen hard to the answers.

One final time: Where are the weapons of mass destruction?

Sports Commentary

Sosa should not be crucified for cork

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambar



SOSA

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sammy Sosa started running out to his position in right field carrying a miniature American flag.

He's always sprinted to his position, and he's always smiled big for the cameras.

His image as a good guy paled in comparison to his stature on the baseball field, however.

And now it's all fading away very quickly as though someone shook up the Etch-a-Sketch of Sammy's world.

For all of his prodigious blasts into the seats, it is a dinky groundout to second base that people are going to talk about for the next few years when they mention Sammy Sosa.

The bat he was using exploded, and inside, a small piece of cork was found.

Sammy Sosa? A corked bat? Wait a minute. He's one of the good guys. He's a hero (and don't talk to me about sports stars not being heroes. I'm talking about the real world, and if you don't think that sports stars are given the status of heroes and idols, I've got a plane ticket for you and Charles Barkley to come join me here in reality.)

Sammy Sosa has hit 505 homeruns in his already illustrious career. He's had three seasons with more than 60 homeruns, a major league record.

But now, because of what Sammy calls a "mistake," everyone is questioning each and every blast.

Sammy says he used the cork bat for batting practice for the fans. Forget the research, which says corked bats do not improve the overall distance a batted ball travels. Sammy was trying to help baseball (and it sure does need some help.)

Or so he says. And should we believe him? Should we accept the explanation that he

does not cheat, he does not use corked bats — should we believe he made an honest mistake?

Yes, we should. And we, as a society of sports fanatics should allow Sammy to live this down. He had 80 other bats examined and not one of them had cork in them.

Truth is, Sammy made a mistake. He's paying for the mistake with an eight game suspension and having members of the media question his integrity. Think that's easy?

Jose Canseco (think anti-hero and antithesis of Sammy Sosa) recently was interviewed about this issue. Why, I'm not sure — and he says that Sammy is the victim of prejudices in the media's coverage of the events.

Jose, crawl back into your hole.

The media extravaganza surrounding this event is not because Sammy is black and from the Dominican Republic.

It's because we are so shocked. Sammy is an icon. I refuse to use the past tense. Sammy will get through this, if for no other reason than the fact

that he broke three cardinal rules that public figures abide by when they get caught.

He did not lie, he did not blame anybody, and he did not avoid the issue.

He is not perfect. In fact, he had an ugly contract squabble a couple seasons ago.

But do you know anyone who doesn't complain about how much they make? Do you know anyone who, if they were in a position to do so, would not fight for more money? The talk about the inflated salaries of athletes is an old hat. You can't blame the athletes, because you wouldn't turn down the money.

Sammy stood up and said he made a mistake and he is sorry, and that makes him even more human, even more real.

That makes him even more of the type of person to whom we should tell our kids, "Look. You see the way he acts? Be like that."

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-3758.

Letters to the editor

Social security numbers need to be kept private

Editor:

Hello, I'm a current student as I have been for the past five years, and I would like to address a concern with the university's policy in regards to the use of student social security numbers. Considering society's current trend with identity theft, I don't see why it's necessary for student's social security numbers to be required everywhere we turn, so much so that it's referred to as our student number.

They are used in all the administrative offices and are often needed when making inquiries about bills, grades and advisement questions. When permits are given over the phone for classes, the administrator, or whoever is giving the permits, requires the student's social. It's even plastered on the identification cards, when even the state of Ohio does not require it to be on licenses.

The reason for my concern is that I recently received a copy of my graduation evaluation in the mail. The evaluation sheet was folded so that my name and address would appear in the window of the envelope. Seems harmless, right? Well, the line above my name, was also in plain sight as it passed through the hands at the university, not to mention the U.S. Postal Service, and this is why you can see I'm concerned.

I do not appreciate my social security number being passed around with such disregard, as seems to be done at the university. This is not the first time. This past summer term I did not receive

a bill in time for summer semester. When I made an inquiry at the Bursar's office I was told that a bill had been sent to me at the first part of May, which I had not received. At that time I was informed that my bill had been due two days prior without my knowing and that I now had a \$30 late fee.

I do not know where my bill went. I have lived in the same house for my entire life and my address has never changed at the university. Again, I'm sure you know my social security number was also, as always, printed on my bill. Time and again I have heard some students complain in my classes that we as students use our social security numbers for everything including tests. I realize that I may not represent the majority of this university and possibly people I've talked to do not either, but I still believe that the university should take better precautions with pertinent student identification information.

After all, we do have patron id numbers that are specific to each student and, when used outside of the university is of little importance to potential identity thieves. I hope that this letter will have some impact on the way the university handles our information, for if these problems are not corrected soon, I would hate to see what happens in the future.

Noelle Raab
Junior
Professional Writing and Editing

Got an opinion?
We want to hear from you... write us @
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Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. Submissions must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

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

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Gates Foundation, as well as other sources.

There are talks about building a high school on campus, but nothing is definite.

Bolla says that the committee hopes to build a high school on campus "wherever we can find space."

Bolla said the program has received two grants for \$7,000 and \$40,000 from the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation.

He said he has seen the project become very successful at a middle college in Pennsylvania. Bolla noted a summer program would be implemented to prepare the students for their college experience.

He said the program is for ninth grade students, who will take college preparatory and Ohio standards courses, such as math, science, language arts and social studies.

They will also receive mentoring twice a week. As sophomores, the students will take transitional courses and learn "soft skills" such as attendance, preparation and responsibility, which will aid them in college and their careers.

An instructor will evaluate each student individually to

determine whether they can then take the appropriate college course.

For example, a student who passes their transitional math course may then take an introductory math college course.

"Failure is not an option," said Bolla. "The goal is so that kids will know what to expect when they get to college. They will look and behave just like any other student."

Project director John Trullio said an extensive intervention program is planned for next year's eighth graders, followed by another such program the following year.

"I'm real excited about it," said Trullio. "It will provide kids with a great opportunity to receive a college education."

Bolla agreed.

"It will be a lot of fun and a lot of hard work," Bolla said. "It should be real successful. If we can save 50 out of 100 kids from being high school dropouts, then we've been successful."

Call Alicia Houston at (330) 941-1811.

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strengthening my skills at the senior management level."

In order to be considered for the institute, candidates were required to submit a recommendation from a university president. University President David Sweet provided the recommendation for Atwater.

Attendees were required to hold a position equivalent to dean or above.

"Dr. Atwater meets all those criteria exceptionally well," F.C. Richardson, Chancellor Emeritus at Indiana University Southeast and MLI selection committee member, said.

The program, which costs \$1500, includes a one-year-long mentoring component, during which a sitting president or chancellor of a university follows the progress of the seminar attendee and answers their questions, Richardson said.

The seminar will be conducted by several university presidents, both current and former, including the president of AASCU, Constantine Curris.

"It's impressive to have the president of AASCU making a presence," Atwater said.

Richardson and Atwater also said budgeting and fiscal management would be a large consideration at MLI.

"Most presidents have difficulty early in their presidency because of budget management or media considerations," Richardson said.

Atwater said he would also like to focus on "creative and more effective fiscal management in tight economic times," as well as fundraising for the university.

Atwater, who assumes the role of acting president when Sweet is unavailable, said the seminar also will help him perform in his current job.

"In terms of professional development, it is useful for me personally and what my future might hold," Atwater said.

Atwater also said his participation in the program would garner YSU recognition.

However, he said, he is happy at YSU and there are no implications that he will become university president in Youngstown or elsewhere.

"I want to be the best I can be," Atwater said.

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-1913.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Departments announce coaches, recruits

By MARK STEVENS
The Jambor

YSU's athletic programs have been busy over the summer signing new recruits and hiring coaches as they prepare for their upcoming seasons.

The swimming and diving, baseball, women's basketball and women's track teams are among those who have been the most active this summer.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

YSU has named a successor to Swimming and Diving Head Coach Jackie Bak, who resigned from her post to pursue other interests.

Matt Anderson, formerly an assistant coach at Ohio State, has been tabbed for this position. YSU Associate Director of Athletics Elaine Jacobs announced last week.

Anderson, who spent four years as an assistant at OSU and two seasons as an assistant at Northern Illinois University, graduated from NIU in 1997. He served as the recruiting coordinator at OSU and coached the sprinters.

The program also added four divers to the team, with Courtney Harless, Lynea Harill, and Erin Mazzant signing national letters of intent to join YSU's swim team in the fall and Kristen Moffat transferring to YSU from West Virginia.

YSU's diving team was already one of the top teams in

the Horizon League, and with these additions, YSU Diving Coach Nick Gavolas said he "is confident that YSU can remain one of the top diving programs in the league."

BASEBALL

YSU's baseball team has brought in some of the best in-state talent to join this year's already talented team.

Head Coach Mike Florak has announced that outfielder Brent Parks, pitcher/infielder Julian Perler, shortstop Josh Page, catcher/outfielder Erich Diedrich, and pitcher/infielder Tom Zetts, all of Ohio, have signed national letters of intent to play for YSU's baseball team.

Zetts will be a two-sport athlete for the Penguins, as he was one of the top recruits for the football team this year.

In other baseball news, Corey Ohalek, one of the Penguins' top pitchers this past season, has signed as an undrafted free agent with the Florida Marlins. Ohalek set school records with 22 wins and 320 innings pitched.

Freshman Charles Schultz, who led the Penguins with a .357 batting average was named to the "Louisville Slugger" Freshman All-American Team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Newly hired women's basketball Head Coach Tisha Hill has announced her staff of

assistant coaches for the upcoming season.

Joining Hill on the YSU bench will be Karin Nicholls, Kara Wile and Amy Waugh.

Nicholls spent two seasons as the head coach at Texas Pan-American and five years as the head coach at Truman State. She will serve as the recruiting coordinator for the Penguins.

Wile, was a four-year starting point guard at Saint Louis University and holds the school record for assists.

Waugh, an honorable mention All-American at Xavier led the Atlantic-10 Conference in scoring last season and won the ESPN College Three-point Championship. She will work with the Penguins' perimeter players.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Head coach Brian Corby announced that the Penguins have signed "the best incoming freshman class of high school seniors in the state of Ohio."

Dominique and Dionne Jones of Cleveland Heights; Danielle Bolt of Brookline, Mass.; Lindsey and Amy Hill of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Lisa Davies of West Branch, Ohio; Kim Jendre of Medina, Ohio and Marielle Glanz of Liberty Center, Ohio have all signed on to join YSU's track and field program.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-3758.

Meet YSU's new coaches



Coach: Matt Anderson
Position: Swimming and Diving head coach
Track Record: Four-year letter winner at Northern Illinois University, two-year assistant swim coach at NIU. Four year assistant coach/recruiting coordinator at Ohio State.



Coach: Karin Nicholls
Position: Assistant coach, womens basketball
Track Record: Two-year head coach at Texas Pan-American. Five-year head coach at Truman State.



Coach: Kara Wile
Position: Assistant coach, womens basketball
Track Record: Four-year starting point guard at Saint Louis University. Holds SLU record for assists.



Coach: Amy Waugh
Position: Assistant coach, womens basketball
Track Record: Led Atlantic 10 conference in scoring last season at Xavier University. Honorable mention All-American.

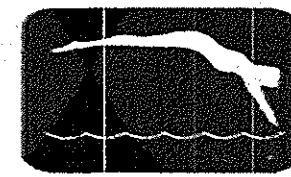
New Athletic Recruits

Baseball

1. Brent Parks — Outfielder
2. Julian Perler — Pitcher/Infielder
3. Josh Page — Shortstop
4. Erich Diedrich — Catcher/Outfielder
5. Tom Zetts — Pitcher/Infielder

Diving

1. Courtney Harless
2. Lynea Harill
3. Erin Mazzant
4. Kristen Moffat (WVU transfer)



Track & Field

1. Dominique Jones
2. Dionne Jones
3. Danielle Bolt
4. Lindsay Hill
5. Amy Hill
6. Lisa Davies
7. Kim Jendre
8. Marielle Glanz

Sports Commentary

Sorenstam, LPGA deserve respect

By DAVE DEVEREUX
The Jambor

While much of the golf world will be tuned in to watch the U.S. Open this weekend, fans from the Northeast Ohio area will have the treat of watching the biggest name in the game, Annika Sorenstam, battle an impressive field at the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic.

Sorenstam has dominated the LPGA in recent years and so far is the leading money winner again in 2003. She comes into town fresh off her fifth major victory at last weekend's LPGA Championship.

Dominating the LPGA Tour is what Sorenstam does best. She became an even bigger icon in sports after competing on the PGA Tour in the Colonial Invitational last month.

Although she failed to make the cut, Sorenstam shot a respectable score of +5 (+1 in the opening round), proving that if she wanted to continue competing on the PGA Tour that she probably could make the cut at another tournament.

Sorenstam's year to date may very well be worthy of athlete of the year considerations. So when she tees it up Friday at Squaw Creek Country Club, for only the second time in the tournaments' 13-year history, this becomes a must-see event if you are a sports fan in this area.

Now do not get me wrong, I am not comparing the Giant Eagle Classic to the U.S. Open, nor am I saying Sorenstam is a better golfer than Tiger Woods. However, over the past several months there have been sports writers and critics who have ripped the LPGA Tour and made it seem like nothing more than a second-rate golf league. This is absurd.

This is why I feel Sorenstam wanted to compete on the PGA Tour in the first place, not necessarily because she wanted to prove that

women could compete with men, but because she wanted to play on the "perceived" highest level in golf.

Too often in America, women's professional sports are considered lower versions of the men's leagues, instead of being viewed as what they really are - another professional sports league. So Sorenstam, like any competitive athlete, seized the challenge of moving up to another level.

I don't blame her — I blame the system.

The wrong message is being sent to young girls who are involved in sports when the top female athletes in the world must compete with men to prove how good they really are. Nine times out of ten, I'm pretty sure how these experiments will turn out.

The female athlete will perform admirably, as Sorenstam showed, but the male athletes will display an enormous edge in physical ability, as the rest of the field at the Colonial showed Sorenstam.

This is nothing new. In fact, this is why there are two separate leagues in the first place, so female athletes such as

Sorenstam can have a successful career in professional sports, instead of battling the bottom-rung players on the PGA Tour.

I give Sorenstam a lot of credit for realizing how much she means to women's golf and deciding to play at the Giant Eagle Classic this weekend.

It is not the U.S. Open or LPGA Championship, but since

the tournament began in 1990, it has produced some of the most entertaining final rounds in women's golf.

Seven times the championship has been decided in a playoff and last year saw Mi Hyun Kim edge Kelly Robbins by one stroke in a thrilling Sunday afternoon duel.

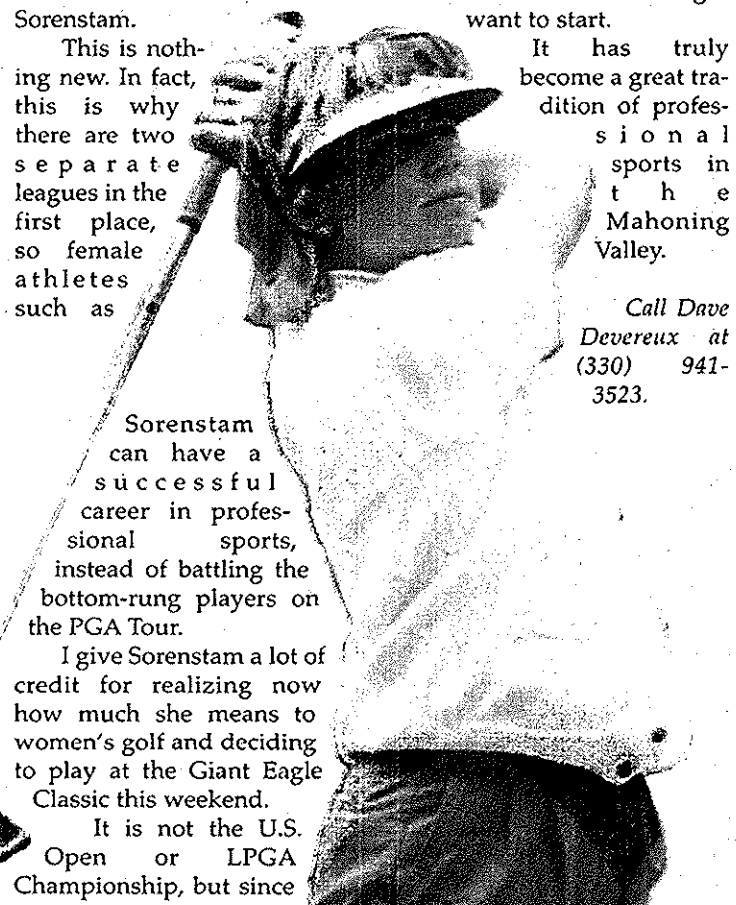
And while Sorenstam is sure to bring added attention to this field, it was not that bad to begin with. The list of players competing in this year's Giant Eagle Classic includes some of the best in the world such as Se Ri Pak, Grace Park, and Christie Kerr, as well as up and coming stars like Beth Bauer and Natalie Gulbis.

In addition to the level of golf, the women on the LPGA Tour may be the classiest professionals in sports.

Those who have attended the Giant Eagle Classic in the past probably know the courteous manner in which these golfers handle themselves amongst the patrons. Those who have not attended might want to start.

It has truly become a great tradition of professional sports in the Mahoning Valley.

Call Dave Devereux at (330) 941-3523.



CD Review

Staind takes laid back approach



Photo courtesy of staind.com

By RYAN MCCABE
The Jambor

Anyone expecting an all out nu-metal assault of loud guitars, thundering bass and screaming vocals from Staind's newest release should be warned. On their third album, "14 Shades of Gray," lead singer Aaron Lewis and company have taken a different approach to their music.

Gone is their unoriginal nu-metal sound and lead singer Aaron Lewis' persistent whining about his crappy relationship with his parents that dominated both their major label debut, "Dysfunction," and their breakthrough album, "Break the Cycle." Instead, the band has put together an album of semi-satisfying melodies and soul-searching ballads.

The album's first single, "Price to Pay," is the only exception to this rule. With its head-banging guitar riffs and Lewis' snarling vocals about taking things for granted, it feels as if it was added to the album just to remind us of what Staind used to sound like.

With its laid back approach and just a hint of inspiration from Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters," "So Far Away" is one of the album's most satisfying cuts. It's touching to see that protégés of Limp Bizkit's lead singer Fred Durst can actually elicit feeling and emotion from his music and show offer a glimmer of hope for a band that has seemed so stuck on self-pity. With lyrics like, "I'm not ashamed/To be the person that I am today/These are my words/That I've never said before I think I'm doing okay/And this is the smile/That I've never shown before," you'll be wondering whether or not Lewis is on Prozac.

Part of Lewis' acceptance of himself and his life may have to do with the birth of his daughter. On "Zoe Jane," a somewhat mushy, but ulti-

mately touching ode to his little bundle of joy, Lewis agonizes over having to leave her when band duties call. "When I walked out this morning I cried as I walked to the door/I cried about how long I'd be away for/I cried about leaving you all alone."

Hey, if we can let Will Smith slide with "Just the Two of Us," and Scott Stapp of Creed get away with "With Arms Wide Open," its really not fair to make fun of Lewis and his newfound ability to communicate with his emotions.

Lewis' odes to important people in his life don't stop with "Zoe Jane," either. He continues on "Layne," a soul-searching and haunting ballad that pays tribute to the late Alice in Chains front man Layne Staley, whose self-destructive habits tragically claimed his life long after his band's reign had ended.

Lewis' fellow band members intentionally and effectively capture the essence of the Alice in Chains' sound and Lewis himself mimics Staley's trademark vocals so well that it sounds like Staley himself has been resurrected from the grave. "The words you said, you made me feel like I was not alone/The words you said, you gave me the strength to carry on/My life you saved/Your name was Layne."

Overall, the album is sure to create mixed emotions amongst die-hard Staind fans. A line surely will be drawn in the sand between those who feel this is the band's finest creative effort and those who will accuse the band of "selling out."

A friend of mine who knows her music (and falls into the latter group of Staind fans) urged me not to buy this album, assuring me it would be crap, but I refused to listen (the bonus DVD was a nice incentive as well). Initially, I was a bit taken aback by the album's laid back sound, but I can honestly say that it grows on you if you keep an open mind and listen to it more than once.