



# The JAMBAR

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Mostly Sunny  
HIGH: 33 LOW: 18

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Issue 27

## Tech upgrades will cost students

By LA'EL HUGHES  
The Jambar

Officials said they will raise tuition and the fees for some classes to fund an overhaul of Youngstown State University's computers and

software. The exact amount of the increases is not yet known, but could involve a tuition increase of up to 3.9 percent — a move that has offered mixed reviews from students.

The plan has also drawn

criticism from the president of the YSU Association of Classified Employees union who said she worries jobs could be eliminated if the plan is implemented.

In a 28-page proposal, the Technology Master Plan advisory

committee discussed making the university's computer laboratories "cutting-edge" and upgrading YSU's administrative programs and multimedia software. The plan also addressed a laundry list of other major system overhauls.

Officials say they have not yet developed an estimate for how much money will be involved, but Donna Esterly, interim chief technology officer, said she knows the costs will be hefty.

See TUITION, page 2

## YSU will outsource auditing, finances

By CHRISTINA POE  
The Jambar

The president of the Youngstown State University Association of Classified Employees said that the university's plan to outsource the auditing of YSU would cost three workers their jobs.

Administrators defended the decision, saying that they are trying to protect the university from a financial scandal and that outsourcing this department was the safest move.

The university intends to replace its Internal Auditing department and last week finalized plans for requesting proposals from outside auditors.

President of YSU-ACE Christine Domhoff said she continues to be puzzled by the board's decision.

Domhoff said the university would save money by keeping internal auditing "in house."

Before the board made the decision to outsource, Domhoff and other members of YSU-ACE presented the board with facts that the university would lose money by outsourcing.

Vice President for Financial Affairs Terry Ondreyka said the decision to outsource internal auditing was the university's response to recommendations from the National Association of College and University Business Auditors (NACUBA) and the university's former external auditor, Packer Thomas Company.

Ondreyka said both organizations cited the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, drafted after numerous national corporate accounting scandals.

Although the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was created for Securities and Exchange Commission registrants or publicly traded companies, Ondreyka said the act "raised the bar" for all institutions to prevent any possible financial risks.

"The board made the determination that the best way to safeguard university finances in the long run was to outsource," Ondreyka said.

By outsourcing, university officials say that administrators will be removed from the process of controlling and accounting for funds.

Trustee John Pogue, a member of the auditing subcommittee, said the Sarbanes-Oxley Act heightened awareness for the need for all possible controls for safeguarding university dollars.

While Domhoff said she is

See PROGRAM, page 4

## Students to collect goods for soldiers

By ELIZABETH TABAK  
The Jambar

Members of the Student Social Work Association are hoping to send a little bit of home to troops stationed overseas.

The association is now collecting items to make care packages for U.S. troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas in order to make their stay more comfortable.

Senior Sharla Chatman, a member of the association, said the committee working on the care packages believed it was especially important to create and send care packages this year to show troops their support.

"We wanted to build morale," Chatman said. "We just wanted to extend a hand, let them know we care, and that we hope for their safe return."

Chatman said that the group is collecting travel size toiletry items and reading material. They are also requesting that people write letters to send to troops who may not have family or friends.

Col. Roderick Hosler, assistant professor of military science, agreed with Chatman on the importance of sending items to troops. Hosler said that care packages are encouraged, and are important for necessities such as toiletries, as well as providing soldiers with some of the comforts of home.

"It allows them to understand that people understand and care about them enough to send some remembrance of home," Hosler said.

Hosler added that he has sent care packages to his two nephews in Iraq, and the thank you letters he receives makes the time taken to send the packages well worth it.

"Just think, if you were over there, what would you like to have?"

Hosler said that it can take up to two weeks for the packages to be delivered, so it is vital for people to send items that will not "perish or melt" in transportation. He said that things such as hard candy, reading materials and hand games such as small checkerboards are recommended. Items such as alcohol and tobacco are not recommended.

Sgt. Gerald Gratz said that receiving items from home was always something he welcomed when he was stationed in Afghanistan from January to June earlier this year.

"It was cool, especially when you didn't have that much contact with family," Gratz said.

"It was a good morale booster, too, because you didn't always know what you're doing — you could be in the tent one minute and the next on the field."

Gratz added that many soldiers in

See PACKAGES, page 4

## Campus debates holiday costs



Elizabeth Tabak / The Jambar

WRAPPED UP IN THE SEASON: With the holiday season upon us, malls and shopping centers have been experiencing a boon in sales. Area children help out with wrapping at the Southern Park Mall.

By MICHAEL J. BALALE  
The Jambar

As area merchants prepare for what they hope will be a busy holiday season, some Youngstown State University students are saying to count them out of the Christmas spending frenzy.

Last Friday — billed as Black Friday by retail store workers — is often said to be the biggest shopping day of the year, but a few YSU professors say it is too soon to predict

whether this year's sales topped previous years.

"With Thanksgiving here, this is usually the kickoff of the holiday season when some stores will see their sales jump up to 50 percent," Tod Porter, chair of the Department of Economics, said. "The national economy is definitely improving."

If area stores are going to be successful this holiday season, they will be achieving their sales goals without the help of some YSU students.

Sitting with friends at Peaberry's

Monday, Kendra Allen, said she is repulsed by Christmas spending.

"I don't like being in public during the holiday season," she said.

Others at the table agreed and within seconds, all conversations about finals' week, Monday's snow and school in general had ended. Instead, the students gathered in Peaberry's spent the next 30 minutes engaged in a conversation about Christmas.

Allen said people spend "too

See SHOPPING page 4

## Finals week adds to student stress

By ASHLEE OWENS & JASON KELLY  
The Jambar

The DeBartolo lounge was unusually quiet for a Monday afternoon. Two students sat at a table with papers and books sprawled before them. They were working on a final, a 15-minute group presentation for their writing class.

"I think we've got it under control," freshman Jason Trickett said, one of the group's collaborators. "I didn't sleep last night," he said, his eyes shifting back to the paper his pen hovered over.

At YSU, finals are less than a week away. For some students, they've already begun.

One table away from Trickett, senior John DeSimone paged through

"If you've been studying all along then finals week is no more than a review beforehand."

—JONELLE BEATRICE  
Associate executive director  
for academic support

books and poster boards marked with symbols.

"This is Hebrew," he said.

He wasn't joking. The psychology and religious studies major was preparing for a final quiz in the language on Thursday.

He pointed to a poster board. "These are pronouns, these are objects and these are verbs," he said. "My brain hurts."

This past weekend, DeSimone said he tried to combine the holiday with putting together a religious studies paper. The paper ended up requiring 45 hours to complete.

"I wish the holiday would be treated as such," DeSimone said.

Senior Rachel Doddato, a psychology major, has seen her fair share of finals. While she is in the process of studying, Doddato said she believes professors have a responsibility to play a role in that process as well.

Jonelle Beatrice, associate executive director for academic support,

See FINALS, page 5

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Britney Spears releases new album.  
CD Review, Page 6

## Inside today's issue:

thejambar.com poll question:

**THE JAMBAR**  
The Collegiate Voice of Youngstown State University

Do you think YSU should increase tuition for technology upgrades?  
Vote @ www.thejambar.com



Frank Solich gets booted as head coach. Fat Head Says, Page 4

## TUITION, continued from page 1

On page 12 of the proposal, committee members suggest spiking the cost of lab fees for computer-intensive courses by 15 percent. There is also a suggestion for "modest increases to tuition."

Esterly said efforts will be made to keep any tuition increases as low as possible, but she hopes that students will see the possible benefits of improved technology.

In addition to student tuition and increases in lab fees, officials will look for grants and other forms of outside funding.

In addition to upgrades to administrative systems, the technology strategy plan calls for enhanced classrooms and improved academic support systems, improved distance learning and expanded training opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

In addition, she said the plan calls for making computers more compatible.

"Integration is the buzz word for what we are trying to do here," Esterly said. "We want everything to be running all on one system."

Software being used by the English department may differ from software being used by the Political Science department, Esterly said.

Esterly said software such as WebCT has been beneficial in getting a single software system that allows students and professors to use the same program to access syllabi and class assignments.

Too often, Esterly said, students have to use different identification numbers to access programs. The technology plan will allow students to use the same ID to access financial aid information, class

scheduling, course syllabi and class assignments.

The technology plan also calls for a pilot program starting with Maag library that will allow students to have access to wireless laptops.

Esterly said, "Students will be able to be mobile. They can do things such as homework out on the quad."

YSU looked at 16 universities to help gauge what the university could expect in its transition for the proposed technology upgrades.

Esterly said local universities, such as Cleveland State University, University of Akron and Kent State University did not have technology plans or were not comparable.

Christine Domhoff, president of YSU-ACE, said she worries that jobs could be lost as a result of the plan.

"I have had several people come up to me, asking if their job is in danger," Domhoff said.

Esterly said she does not believe anyone will lose his or her job, but said there will be some re-structuring.

Domhoff added that before the university does any employee job changes, there must be "talks" held with the employee union first.

Domhoff said she is also concerned that no representative from her union was invited to serve on the committee.

She said the committee includes representatives from every area on campus except YSU-ACE.

Some students said YSU officials should make sure the changes to YSU's technology environment are tangible and beneficial to students before they decide to increase tuition.

Sophomore Rachel Brown said she thinks a hike in tuition is OK, as long as the benefits are helpful.

Brown, who is a nursing major, said updates to programs used during her anatomy and physiology lab would be a welcomed benefit.

However, Brown said changes to systems such as financial aid services are not necessary.

"I never had any problems with them," she said.

However, junior Janine Martindale said tuition is already "ridiculously" high, but agrees that there could be some changes on campus.

Martindale said at the beginning of the year, the customer service at financial aid is a three on a scale of one to 10, however, she said she is aware of the hardships faced by the Financial Aid representatives.

"It is very hard to get a response from financial aid for one simple question."

Martindale said being able to check her own financial report by going online would be a good idea, but questioned whether raising tuition is the way to go.

"Right now my computer is down, so that would mean I would have to wait until I get to school before I could check my financial aid or my grades."

"What are the benefits of going to this school, when are we going to be able to get something that we do not have to pay for besides our identification card?" Martindale said.

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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

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## Today's Editorial

### YSU should have say in redirected convocation funds

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan and some other federal legislators are scrambling to help Youngstown not lose \$25 million in federal money that was supposed to be used for building a downtown convocation center.

Next week, Congress will vote on a measure that would allow city officials to spend the money differently than what had been originally prescribed.

Ryan wants the city to be able to redirect the funds for projects other than a convocation center.

In a telephone interview Monday, Patrick Lowry, a spokesman for Ryan, said the bill would allow more flexibility and more time with the \$25 million, such as rebuilding the central business district downtown.

We fear that this is unlikely to happen, and even if it does happen, we worry that the same public officials who have failed to implement a plan for the massive federal gift will fail to actually deliver anything.

Lowry said Ryan's main responsibility is to ensure that the city does not "lose" the money.

Here's the background and why it matters to the YSU community:

Youngstown was granted \$25 million from the federal government to build an 8,000 to 10,000 seat facility to be used as a convocation/community center.

This grant was signed more than two years ago, and since then there has been nothing but feuding, idle talk and little to no sensible action.

City officials, Mayor George McKelvey and some university administrators who have been given limited access to the interring decision-making have not developed a sensible, workable plan for how to build and more importantly, how to finance and operate such a facility.

Those who have been holding onto hope that such a project is viable have said that this facility would revitalize Youngstown's ailing downtown and help University President Sweet's plan to spur campus development.

But the fact remains that there are no plans for how to operate this enigmatic project, nor is there any agreement on what this project should be.

We agree with those who cling to hope that this project could help the university and the downtown, but we recognize that hope as naive optimism in a community so bedraggled that it cannot even form consensus in order to not lose federal money.

So back to Ryan and what happens next week:

We urge university administrators, students, faculty and staff to lobby other federal lawmakers to give us a second chance.

If lawmakers agree to allow the city to change plans for the \$25 million, we then urge the university community to exercise its large stake in how the funds will be directed.

## HE'S JUST THE BOY WHO SAYS THAT I AM THE ONE



## Letters to the editor

### Former editor defends Jambar articles

Editor:

I naturally have some strong yet mixed opinions on your newspaper's coverage of the "tradition" of getting loaded before Penguin games. I was planning on staying silent, however, until Timothy Sturges wrote something to the effect that The Jambar is the second coming of Stephen Glass and Jayson Blair.

In response to his backhanded compliment, I guess I'll offer my thanks. I just wish he, as someone who self-presumably is so concerned with student well-being, wouldn't have been so quiet last year when he thought I was "poisoning" them with my "horrible" leadership. But, like Rep. Sturges, I digress.

There seems to be a lot of misdirected anger here. The local newspapers have blamed The Jambar without investigating the law independently. My own parents have told me they are so happy I'm not the editor in chief responsible for "this." Hey, our house was toilet papered enough last year.

And now comes Rick George, a Jambar editor emeritus whom I respect, and Rep. Sturges. Both contend that The Jambar single-handedly killed the most glorious pastime. Mr. George made clear what decision he would make as an editor in chief. I think he's wrong, and here's why:

The Jambar never said whether drinking was right or wrong; the reports said that according to law, it was illegal. There's a difference. Once a journalist learns of such information, to not

report it would be against everything he or she is taught. And to Mr. George, maybe we read different articles, but I thought the first was very thorough in pointing out that OSU and Kent had specific policies.

We'd be naive to assume a new policy will solve everything. But for those who threaten to cancel their ticket packages, good riddance. I know the Penguins were bad this year, but if it's so bad you need to get loaded — and, yes, sometimes it sure was that bad — do it at home if you don't want to follow the rules. Or go buy some brown paper bags or whatever. But stop being ignorant and assuming that, because fans drink everywhere else, YSU's previous policy was in compliance with the law.

And finally to Rep. Sturges: If you're going to carve out a career in public service — and your tenure as a SGA representative thus far has been less than inspiring — take a class or two on journalism theory. You won't get very far if you accuse the newspaper of lying every time it prints something with which you don't agree. Give Angela Olin a break. I would have done the same thing. To say that my staff was better behaved under my command is just ridiculous.

Henry Gomez  
Class of 2003  
Former Jambar editor in chief

Got an opinion?  
We want to hear from  
you... write us @  
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The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members: Editor in Chief Angela Olin, News Editor La'el Hughes, Design Editor B.J. Lisko and Copy Editor Mark Stevens. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

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

### America needs to 'play by the rules' for real

Editor:

In reading the article in Tuesday's Jambar entitled "Faculty, students debate Iraq," I came across a quote [by a student] that was in grave need of correction. That quote was: "The people we're going after don't play by the rules. We're playing by the rules. We're too nice."

I won't reproach him on the "niceness" of killing 6000 Iraqis, but I will question our "playing by the rules." To quote Pentagon war hawk, friend of Bush and sometimes criminal Richard Pearl: "I think in this case international law stood in the way of doing the right thing." Yeah, we play by the rules.

And to question their playing by the rules, does no one remember when we were actually encouraging Saddam's

imperialistic intentions, you know, during the years of the Iraq-Iran War? Or that the weapons we were searching for over there were probably given to him by the United States. Or that the gassing of the Kurds that the Bushites constantly refer to was spurred by the U.S. encouraging them to rebel against Saddam and subsequently not helping them like we promised in a dazzling display of dastardly Realpolitik — thanks again Henry Kissinger.

Now I am not defending Saddam here, he was a cruel, heartless dictator, much like Pol Pot — wait the U.S. supported Pol Pot, much like Hitler then. His actions were for the most part inexcusable, as were our reasons for war.

I also would like to address "terrorist training camps" the brought up by the same person. I will quote the FOX news

article on this to make conservatives happy: "U.S. forces came upon a recently abandoned terrorist training camp on the outskirts of Baghdad where recruits were apparently taught how to make bombs and what to do if they got captured, the Marines said Wednesday." Correct me if I'm wrong, but Iraq had an army, and these are things that would logically be taught to soldiers of a legitimate state army. Interesting. To close, hopefully the US will learn to "play by the rules" for real someday instead of just saying they are.

Casey Pavelko  
Freshman  
Political Science

The Jambar			
ANGELA OLIN Editor-in-Chief (330) 941-1991	LA'EL HUGHES News Editor (330) 941-1989	BJ LISKO Design Editor (330) 941-1807	MARK STEVENS Copy Editor (330) 941-1811
OLGA ZIOBERT Business manager (330) 941-3064	ALYSSA LENHOFF Adviser (330) 941-1908	SARA TKAC Advertising manager (330) 941-1990	JOSH BOGGS Sports Reporter (330) 941-1913
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CHRISTINA POE Features Reporter (330) 941-3523	E-MAIL US AT thejambar@hotmail.com		

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### THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

BY MIKE PINGREE  
KRT

WE KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS, OFFICER

Soaked from the rain and heavily intoxicated while cheering on the University of Wisconsin at a football game, two attorneys went into the downstairs laundry room of a nearby apartment building afterward to dry their clothes. They stripped naked and put their clothes into a dryer, and while they were waiting, commenced singing loudly and in a drunken fashion. Residents complained. Police arrived. The men, who were "extremely uncooperative" — were arrested for disorderly conduct.

THAT'S A BIT MORE LIKE IT

A man arrested twice in the same place in Sydney, Australia, for exceeding the 60 mph speed limit, replaced the 60 mph sign at the scene of his offenses with

a 70 mph sign he stole from another location.

LIE FOR ME; NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW

A man awaiting trial in a Pennsylvania jail for a barroom murder, wrote to a friend asking him to provide an alibi that would get him set free. But he didn't enough stamps on the envelope, so the letter was returned to the jail. In keeping with corrections policy, the guards read it. He was found guilty.

OH NO, WHAT AM I MARRYING INTO?

At the end of a wedding reception in Japan, the bride was appalled when the groom's male relatives took off all their clothes and began what they called the "celebratory nude dance." She was even more appalled when the groom joined in.

She attributed the men's conduct to the fact that they were "from a country area," but said that the episode drove a wedge between her and her husband and resulted in their divorce.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE FINE, ARGHHHH!

Russian authorities removed the inhabitants of Wrangel Island, off the Arctic Chukotka peninsula, in 1997 when they turned it into a reserve for polar bears. But one young woman, Vasilina Alpaun, went back there to live in her home shortly thereafter. A polar bear killed her on her doorstep.

(Mike Pingree is a columnist for the Boston Herald)

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## Fat Head Says

By MARK STEVENS  
The Jambar



**Happy "Turkey" Day:** Overheard at the residence of Kobe Bryant on Thanksgiving: "... and thank you for Michael Jackson."

**Indirect quote of the week:** The award goes to Casey Coleman, Cleveland Browns radio sideline reporter, who asked play-by-play announcer Jim Donovan and color commentator Doug Dieken if they were psyched up for the post-game show following the Browns' demoralizing 34-7 loss at the hands of Seattle.

**Thanks for nothing:** After compiling nine wins this season and a 58-19 career record as head coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers football team, Frank Solich was fired last week.

Oh yeah, he only served on the team's staff for the past quarter century. Talk about loyalty from the administration.

True, his team couldn't compete with Oklahoma this year. Big surprise. That makes him a lot like everyone else in the country.

True, his team lost to Big-12 opponents Kansas State and Texas. But it's not like we're talking about Troy State and Rice University here.

The worst part about this whole deal is the words of Nebraska athletic director Steve Pederson.

"This decision was not an easy one, and I'm certain with a 9-3 season there will be questions," Pederson said. "But this was not a decision that would be determined by wins and losses. It was a decision based on the overall direction of our program and where I see our program headed in the next five to 10 years."

Not determined by wins and losses? How else can you see where a program is headed? I guess the fact that the team improved by two wins over last season isn't a sign that the team is headed in the right direction.

The ironic thing about Pederson's comments about the direction of the program is that the firing most certainly affects the direction of the program.

Nebraska is a high-profile place for college football. They need a big name coach, so it's not likely that the next coach will come from the program. And here's where the college football gods will frown on Pederson.

A big name will bring his own style. Let's say that Nebraska lures Pitt head coach Walt Harris, a big name. Harris' style is a passing one. Nebraska doesn't pass. Never have.

We're talking about a four to five year turnaround for recruits to fit another coach's style. Besides, what recruits are going to sign with a team with no head coach?

This was a mistake, one that Pederson's own defense only makes more absurd.

**Big woman on campus:** Congrats go to Annika Sorenstam and her fabulous performance in this year's Skins Game.

Winning \$225,000 against the boys is no small feat.

**Gonzaga II?:** Chaminade — that sounds cool — upset Villanova this past week in early season college basketball action.

I love mid-majors.

**No lead-in for this one:** Asked who would play him in a movie about himself, Isaiah Thomas thought for a moment before answering with "Matt Damon."

Isaiah?  
Never mind.  
See you all in the spring. Fat Head loves you.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

## SHOPPING, continued from page 1

much money on what is too much of a commercialized holiday."

Allen said she works at a drug store and picks up extra hours during the holiday season.

"I work about 30 hours extra during the holidays, but I really don't like the public. I guess I'm just anti-holidays," Allen said.

Hearing what was being discussed, Josh Stone spun his chair away from the computer to join the discussion.

Shouting over others who had been talking, Stone said, "It's about buying a bunch of gifts for nothing."

Stone continued to criticize the entire thought of celebrating the holiday season as other students watched his tirade. "Christmas should be about Jesus, not about putting gifts under a stupid f—ing tree," Stone said.

Others joined the Christmas Scrooge session. Lorenzo Thomas, who

joined the conversation just after the Jesus remark, said, "Between November and January is aneurism season. So I try to stay home as much as possible. As the temperature goes down, something happens to the IQ. Maybe it's the whole trampling on old ladies for the \$20 DVD player."

Bob Brownlie said he is forever soured by Christmas. His angst about the holiday, however, has little to do with chaos, traffic or commercialization. Instead, he said, it has to do with love.

He said he broke up with his fiancé around Christmas. "She kept the ring and I hate Christmas," Brownlie said.

Marketing professors say they do not have enough information to make educated predictions about the state of the economy.

Call Michael J. Balata at (330) 941-1807.

## PACKAGES, continued from page 1

need of items did not always have family members or friends to send them care packages.

"There's a lot of guys who don't have anybody over there ... they need these things, too," Gratz said. "If

they have no family, at least they know somebody cares."

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 5 in room 3030A of Cushman Hall.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.

## PROGRAM, continued from page 1

worried about the jobs of the three members of the internal auditing department, she said she is also troubled by the possibility that auditors from outside of the area could be hired.

"Anytime business is taken out of the city, it does not bode well for the community," Domhoff said. "There becomes less and less reasons for people to stay."

Pogue said "time will tell" about how outsourcing will affect the university and the surrounding community.

Pogue said the board's final decision about which auditing firm to hire will be based on the evaluation committee's recommendations, not the location of the company.

He also said there is truth in the chance auditors outside of Youngstown will be hired, but it is not the goal of the board to do so.

"Youngstown is always our first choice," Pogue said. "We try to support the home team whenever we can."

Domhoff said the three internal auditing employees would have trouble finding other jobs related to their field.

But Pogue said these employees would be transferred to other departments in the university.

New auditors and the new system are expected to be in place by July 1.

Call Christina Poe at (330) 941-3523.

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### FINALS, continued from page 1

argues preparation for final exams must begin the first day of class.

"If you've been studying properly all along, then finals week is no more than a review beforehand," Beatrice said.

Beatrice attributes many of the problems to poor time management.

Senior Kathy Seibourn places herself in that category. "I'm a classic procrastinator," she said, holding herself completely responsible for putting off assignments until the due date.

Another problem can be cramming too much material the night before an exam.

"Many students expect to be able to simply regurgitate facts. They're not prepared to apply what they've learned," Beatrice said.

But help is available.

Last academic year, the Center for Student

Progress spent nearly 24,000 hours with students. Jeff Thomas, CSP coordinator, said the majority of the students who take advantage of the tutorial services return time after time.

"Those are the students who realize it takes both time and a consistent effort."

Kathlynn Feld, health professions professor, agreed with the benefits of consistency. Feld urged students to attend class and not allow themselves to fall behind.

The Center for Student Progress is offering nearly 60 review sessions in courses ranging from economics to art history.

The walk-in sessions run until the end of the week.

Call Ashlee Owens or Jason Kelly at (330) 941-1913.



Write for the Jambar... Write news stories, commentaries, review movies, CDs, etc. Angela at (330) 941-1913

## FOURTH ANNUAL JABALI AFRICAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH 2003

7:00 P.M. THE CHESTNUT ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER



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- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross Professor of Political Science and International Studies, McDaniel College, MD-"African Popular Culture in America"
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- African Dinner and African Traditional and Popular Music

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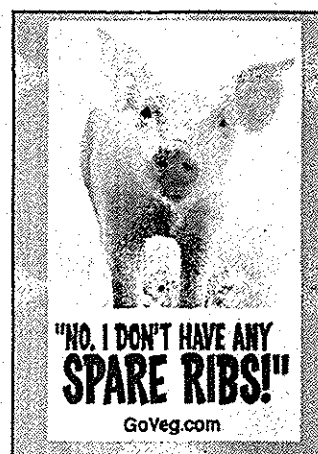
### Campus Calendar

Every Thursday through December Circle K meets at 4:00 pm in Kilcawley Center Room 2068 to discuss volunteer work in the community. Contact Starr at [ysucirclek@hotmail.com](mailto:ysucirclek@hotmail.com)

YSUnity meets every Wednesday at 4 pm in Kilcawley. Contact Joel Masters [omegaportent12@aol.com](mailto:omegaportent12@aol.com)

The Historic Preservation Club is accepting new, unwrapped toys for donation to Toys for Tots. Toys will be accepted through December 9, and can be placed in the donation box located in the history department on the 5th floor of DeBartolo Hall. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you to all who donate.

The American Holiday Butler Art show is Saturday Dec 6 from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday December 7 from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$3.



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### MASS for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

**Kilcawley Center**  
[www.kc.ysu.edu](http://www.kc.ysu.edu)

**F&PA Series**  
**THE COLLEGE OF  
Fine & Performing Arts**  
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dec 3 - 8:00 pm  
Student Jazz Combs  
Directed by: David Morgan and Glenn Schaft  
Chestnut Room, Kilcawley

Dec 4 - 4:00 pm  
Carols & Cocoa  
St. Johns Episcopal Church  
Wick Avenue

Dec 4, 5, 6 - 8:00 pm  
Dec 7 - 3:00 pm  
Blackbox Production  
GOOD THING by Jessica

Goldberg, Spotlight Arena Theater, Bliss Hall, \$  
Box Office: 330-941-3105

Dec 5 - 19  
Graduating Senior Show  
Of YSU Art Department  
McDonough Museum  
330-941-1400

Dec 5 - 7:00 pm  
Hae-Jong Lee  
Voice Class Recital  
Bliss Recital Hall

All events are free and open to the public unless noted otherwise

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## CD Review

### Oops, Britney releases new CD

Pop princess Britney Spears is back with her latest album

By RYAN MCCABE  
The Jambar

If you've been living in a cave and have missed the onslaught of media coverage aimed at America's favorite former virgin Britney Spears, then you probably don't know she has a new album, "In the Zone," out either.

Let's just say the whole "not a girl, not yet a woman" thing is no longer arguable, at least not after hearing her provocative and sometimes sleazy lyrics about sex, dance floor hook-ups, sex, masturbation and you guessed it, sex.

It's interesting that Britney has gone from being one of the staunchest advocates for virginity to lustful party girl.

First of all give Britney a micro-shred of credit for partaking in the songwriting process. It must have been mentally exhausting to actually contribute to her own manufactured success.

But then again, maybe that much credit isn't really due since she shares writing credit with anywhere from four to six other people per song. I know Britney once said that "anyone can write a boring artistic song, but writing pop music is hard" but that many people collaborating for a three or four minute song reeks of over-reliance.

Britney's sex drive fuels the low-key

"Breathe on Me" as well. Panting and moaning, she advises "boy, don't stop/cause I'm halfway there." She gets herself so worked up that you half expect her to climax right into the microphone.

Looking to cash in on the craze ushered into the mainstream by Lil' Jon and the Eastside Boyz, Spears teams up with the Ying Yang Twins for the crunkadelic "(I Got That) Boom Boom." The song would benefit greatly if Britney shut up and let the Twins do their thing, but instead she's "got the boom boom/that you want." News flash Britney, your young fan base has either outgrown or abandoned you and your yo-yoing morals.

The majority of the songs have a decisively upbeat tempo and 1970s porno-like music (all which were created by real talents, not Britney), but none stand out. There are a few lame attempts at ballads, but like I said, Britney's body is her meal ticket, not her voice.

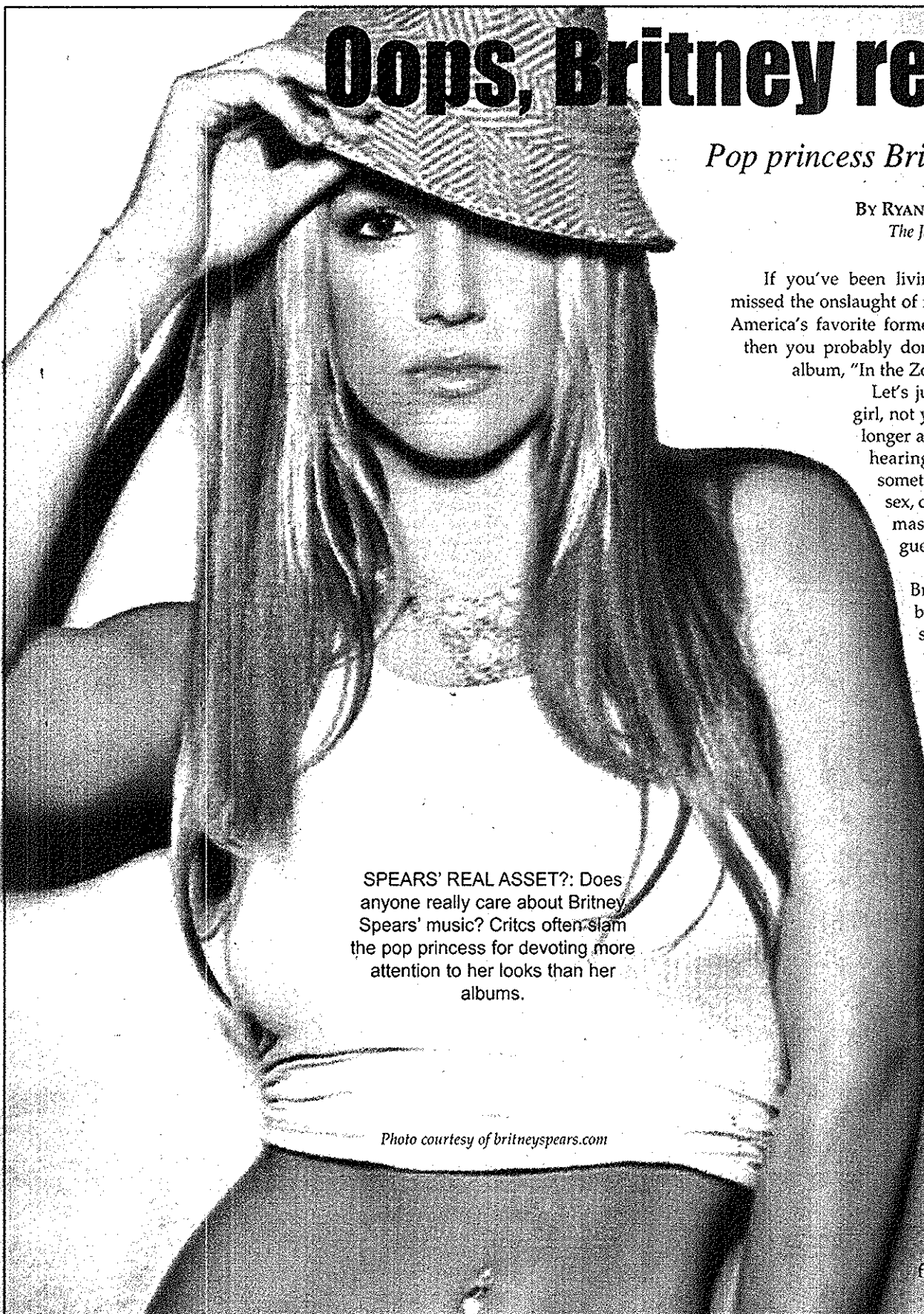
The only worthwhile ballad, "Shadow," written and produced by the Matrix (who have worked wonders for Avril Lavigne and Liz Phair), is probably the album's strongest track. But along comes Britney's nasally and decidedly in-twenty-one-year-old voice to ruin the day.

The boldest track, "Brave New Girl," is worth the price of the CD just to hear Britney try to rap. If you can stifle your laughter, you'll be rewarded with lyrics like "who knew she could feel so alive/her M.O.'s changed/she don't wanna behave/ain't it good to be a brave girl?"

Sadly, the answer may be yes. Look where it's gotten her so far. A round of tongue hockey with Madonna made headlines, and *Glamour* recently named Britney one of their "Women of the Year," which sent a very positive message to our impressionable youth. If you stop to your knees on stage, lip-synch in concert and shake your ass on stage, you too could be chronicled in a major publication.

I hope you've enjoyed the ride Britney, because you're becoming known more for your drinking and smoking habits than for your music. You have less of a grip on your career than Michael Jackson, and sans an illicit porno rap, you're one step away from becoming the next Paris Hilton.

Call Ryan McCabe at (330) 941-3738



SPEARS' REAL ASSET?: Does anyone really care about Britney Spears' music? Critics often slam the pop princess for devoting more attention to her looks than her albums.

Photo courtesy of britneyspears.com

## Movie Review

### 'Bad Santa' really quite good

By MICHAEL J. FREEMAN  
The News Record  
(U. Cincinnati)

(U-WIRE) CINCINNATI - It sounds like something a dog owner would say while hitting the offending pup, Santa, on the nose with a rolled-up newspaper.

Which makes it the perfect title for this entertaining movie starring Billy Bob Thornton.

Thornton plays an alcoholic thief who uses his job as a department store Santa Claus to gain access to the store's safe.

He's verbally abusive to everyone around him including the kids who sit on his lap to relate their deepest desires. Obsessed with anal sex involving large women, he drinks before, during and after work.

Yet, somehow he is still likeable. It may be because of his tales of what a bad father he had, or maybe because of his constant self-deprecation. He comes across more as a loser than evil: A man who has lost all hope and can't be bothered to mourn its passing because that might interfere with his drinking.

Bernie Mac plays the head of security at the store Thornton is set to rob. However, Mac gets little screen time and doesn't do much with it. The popularity of his TV show is presumably the reason he gets second billing for "Bad Santa."

Second billing should have gone to Tony Cox instead. Cox plays the bad elf to Thornton's bad Santa, except that Cox's character is "bad" in a different sense of the word. He is the brains of their criminal operation, and where



Photo courtesy of miramaxfilms.com  
HO HO HO: Billy Bob Thornton stars as "Bad Santa."

delivers his dialogue with a dead-on mix of attitude and comedy, and his physical humor isn't forced or hammy.

"Bad Santa" is formulaic in that everyone knows Thornton will redeem himself by the end of the movie. His redemption shows up early on in a lonely child played by Brett Kelly. Listed simply as "The Kid" in the credits, Kelly plays a child who is utterly unconcerned with the depressing reality of his life and instead seems to be living in the wonderful, happy world of '50s TV.

Initially Thornton just takes advantage of Kelly, but the kid's implicit belief that Thornton is a good person and his persistent optimism in the face of his lousy life eventually breaks through his self-pitying alcoholic haze.

But the movie manages to stay funny even through the redemption, something that a lot of comedies fail to do. Often movies feel the need to take a break from the comedy in order to wrap up the plot. But not "Bad Santa."

Even redeemed Thornton is still foul-mouthed and when he tries to be a good person he humorously fails for lack of experience. But it doesn't matter, since the kid needed a little more bad behavior in his life, anyway.

"Bad Santa" is rated R for good reason; the use of foul language is so rife it's distracting at times. But the movie is entertaining and worth at least the cost of a matinee ticket.

## The Quigmans



"A pretty girl is like a melody, Susan ...  
In your case, 'Highway to Hell' comes to mind."

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