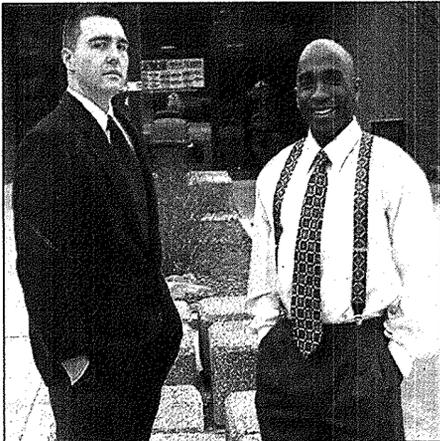


The Gathering: Spend some time with a few regular customers of Peaberry's Cafe. See page 7.

Online: thejambar.com thejambar@gmail.com

YSU



Jambar/ Leonard Glenn Crist
Wayne Penny Jr. and Andy Eich, both political science majors with military backgrounds, are running for SGA president and vice president for 2006-2007.



Jambar/ Cheryl Thompson
Psychology major Chad Miller and political science major Sarah Vansuch are opposing Penny and Eich in the election, and have experience in SGA.

Four run for SGA leadership

By: Cheryl Thompson
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association elections are fast approaching and students will soon choose new SGA leaders and representatives.

Voting will be Tuesday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 12, with voting stations in Kilcawley Center and online voting through Cue-mail. Students must show a current YSU ID to vote.

Running for the presidential and vice presidential seats this year are Chad Miller, a senior psychology major, and Sarah Vansuch, a junior political science major. Their opponents are Wayne Penny Jr., a junior political science major, and Andy Eich, also a junior political science major.

Both sets of candidates said they have different experiences that will benefit students. Miller and Vansuch have served with SGA and Penny and Eich draw from military experience.

Penny and Eich both have military experience, Penny with the Army and Eich with the Marines. Penny served in Operation Enduring Freedom for three-and-a-half years.

"We have been bred to be leaders,"

Eich said.

Penny and Eich said their experiences in the military have given them the opportunity to show leadership in difficult situations and the experience would come in handy if elected.

"Leadership abilities play a great role," Penny said.

Penny said he realized some people might be skeptical of electing him as president because of his lack of SGA experience.

Because of their prior experience, Miller and Vansuch already have working relationships with campus administrative leaders.

"If we get elected, we can hit the ground running," Miller said.

Vansuch and Miller said because of their experience in the SGA, they have an idea of the campus improvements students would like to see and have outlined four areas that they would focus on in their Web site, www.millervansuch.com.

The four areas covered in Miller and Vansuch's platform include keeping YSU affordable, bringing more activities to campus, expanding campus technology and improving academic requirements.

Miller said he took a realistic

approach when he and Vansuch created their platform and while they might not get to accomplish all of the outlined projects, they will attempt to follow through on as many as possible.

"Our platform is set up as way to follow through with the initiatives SGA has been working on all year. There are four main issues that are all equally important that we'd like to see through."

He urged students to read his platform online and said students can contact him through the Web site with suggestions.

"This isn't just fancy talk," Miller said. "The platform is fairly comprehensive."

A primary way to reach to students has been e-mail. This year, SGA leaders relayed information about events and gathered student opinions on issues, such as education requirements and food service.

Penny and Eich said they'd like to improve communications between SGA representatives and the student body and are going for a student-based campaign.

"We want to put the student back in

please see **SGA**, Page 2

YSU

STRS questions Sweet's salary

By: Kelli Cole
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio has questioned why Youngstown State University President David Sweet is counting his housing and car allowances as part of his normal salary — a move that could force YSU trustees to re-open and revise the university president's contract.

In November 2004, Sweet received \$52,615 annually in a housing allowance and \$7,398 in a yearly car allowance. These sums were in addition to his base salary. YSU spokesman Ron Cole said Sweet's 2005-06 base salary is \$215,492.

A spokeswoman for STRS said the act of including housing and car allowances in base salaries is not allowed because it inflates a person's pension when he or she retires. Retirement pensions are based on a percentage of a

person's salary for the last few years that he or she worked.

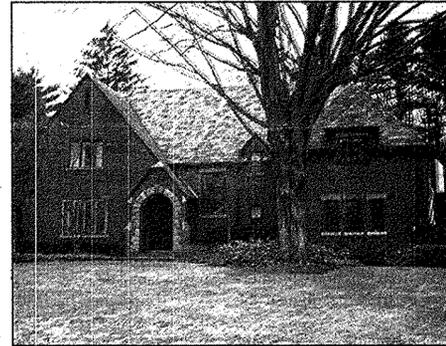
The issue between Sweet and the STRS first surfaced in the summer of 2005 when Sweet asked STRS for a calculation of what he would collect when he retires.

The problem has remained fairly quiet since then and Sweet acknowledged that the issue is not resolved. Sweet said he is too busy with other issues to deal with his salary.

Sweet's contract was revised in November 2004 when university trustees renewed his contract for six years. His revised contract, which does not expire until June 2010, was amended to transfer his housing and automobile allowances to his base salary and then to compensate him for the extra taxes he will have to pay because of the larger salary.

The trustees agreed to shift the housing and car

please see **SWEET**, Page 2



Jambar/ Katie Libecco
Youngstown State University president David Sweet's yearly salary of \$215,492 includes a \$52,615 housing allowance. His Liberty home, on Fairlawn Avenue, is shown above.

EDUCATION

Governer hopefuls weigh in on education

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

With the 2006 elections on the horizon, Ohio's governor hopefuls are beginning to weigh in with suggestions to improve Ohio's education system. Changes to higher education, primary education and continuing education for workers have been proposed.

For higher education, Jim Petro, Ohio's Attorney General running for the Republican Party, proposed a restructuring of Ohio's executive branch which would result in savings. Those savings could be used as tuition relief for college students. Called the "buy-down" plan, a spokesperson for Petro's

campaign said it would eliminate executive positions as employees left.

"It would be trimming the fat off state government," Petro's spokesperson said.

By not filling positions that duplicate other executive jobs, Petro expects to save more than \$1 billion annually, a spokesperson said. The savings would be split between tuition relief and tax breaks for Ohio families. Petro's plan seeks to drum up \$540 million to reduce tuition by 30 percent or \$1,740 per student.

Petro's spokesperson said that the money would go directly to tuition relief and not into public institutions' budgets

please see **EDUCATION**, Page 2

DIVERSITY

Mayor says there's more to diversity

By: Leonard Glenn Crist
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When the Youngstown 2010 plan was initially unveiled in December 2002 in front of 1,000 people at Stambaugh Auditorium, the level of diversity present was shocking to some critics, Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams said Wednesday.

"The initial unveiling of Youngstown 2010, in my mind, was one of the most diverse community events I have ever seen. In fact, the level of diversity was probably a little bit shocking or unsettling to critics [of diversity]," Williams said.

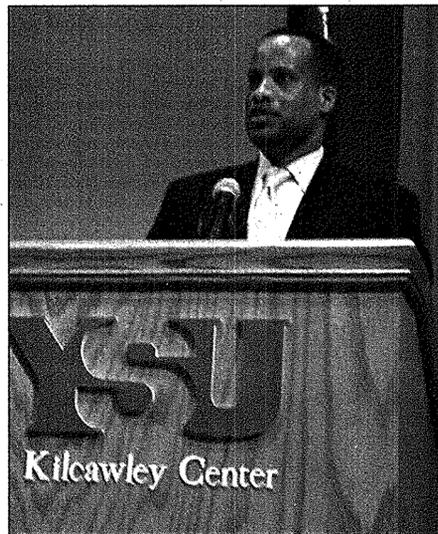
That night, in addition to diversity of races, there was also political diversity and geographic diversity in the people who came to hear

about the new comprehensive plan for Youngstown, Williams said.

Williams was the keynote speaker Wednesday evening for the 2006 Celebration of Diversity and Recognition Banquet. More than 250 people attended the event held in Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center and sponsored by YSU's Office of Student Diversity, Partners for Workplace Diversity, the YSU Foundation, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and the YSU Student Diversity Council.

In his speech, Williams admitted that though he's a proponent of diversity, he is by no means an expert. But he said he wanted to share his diversity experi-

please see **DIVERSITY**, Page 2



Jambar/ Katie Libecco
Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams speaks as keynote speaker in Wednesday's Diversity Celebration in the Chestnut Room.

News Briefs

Holocaust conference

"Beyond Numbers, Beyond Names: The Experience of Holocaust Victims," a conference sponsored by the Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program of Youngstown State University will be held from April 2 to 4 at YSU. There will be panel discussions, lectures and performances starting April 2 with the opening ceremony in DeBartolo Hall Auditorium at 1 p.m. and will wrap up April 4 with a panel discussion entitled Diaries as Illuminations

from 1 to 3 p.m. For a full agenda, visit www.yсу.edu/judaic/conference.html or call (3300 941-1603).

Interview day

The Spring 2006 Business/Engineering Interview Day will be Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. The event will give more than 175 students and alumni a chance to interview with area employers.

Weather >> snow flurries

38 | 25

friday: snow, 38/26

saturday: snow, 39/27

INTODAY'S JAMBAR

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Entertainment / Sports 1 7 & 8
Opinion 1 3

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SGA, continued from page 1

based campaign. "We want to put the student back in student government," Penny said. A major issue Penny and Eich said they are going to tackle is financial aid. They said that because they pay their own tuition, they understand how important the issue is to students. "We're not honor students or scholars. We know what it's like to pay our own way. Mommy and Daddy don't pay for us," said Penny. To open communication, the pair plans on talking with students directly. He said SGA needs to increase involvement from students who are not in the organization.

"We plan to go door to door campaigning," Penny said. "We're going to go face-to-face with the students to see what they really want. Two people can't speak for the entire student body." Eich and Penny said they plan to bring Facebook into their campaign. Planning to use the online community as a way to promote activities and voice concerns, Penny said the site is an important tool for campus improvement. "Facebook is going to be crucial in the evolution of this university," Penny said. "More students pay attention to Facebook than e-mail."

DIVERSITY, continued from page 1

ences from working with the 2010 plan and in his mayoral campaign. One thing he's learned is diversity requires involvement and commitment. "We made every attempt to go out into every corner of the community to make sure this was a very diverse and inclusive process," Williams said of the 2010 planning. "I personally myself made sure I went to people of all faiths, people of all socio economic backgrounds, people of all belief systems." He also said that diversity is often narrowly defined. "Too often, diversity is very easily defined as racial diversity — black, white, Hispanic — that's pretty much where that definition tends to end," Williams said. But diversity must involve different economic, political and regional backgrounds and even diversity of thought, he said. Williams came up with his own "three-dimensional" definition of diversity. Diversity isn't just the differences between people; it is differences, plus equality and fairness, he said. In addition to being different, one needs to share the same values and rights and be free from bias and self-interest to truly be diverse, he said. Embracing diversity doesn't involve surrendering your identity or core

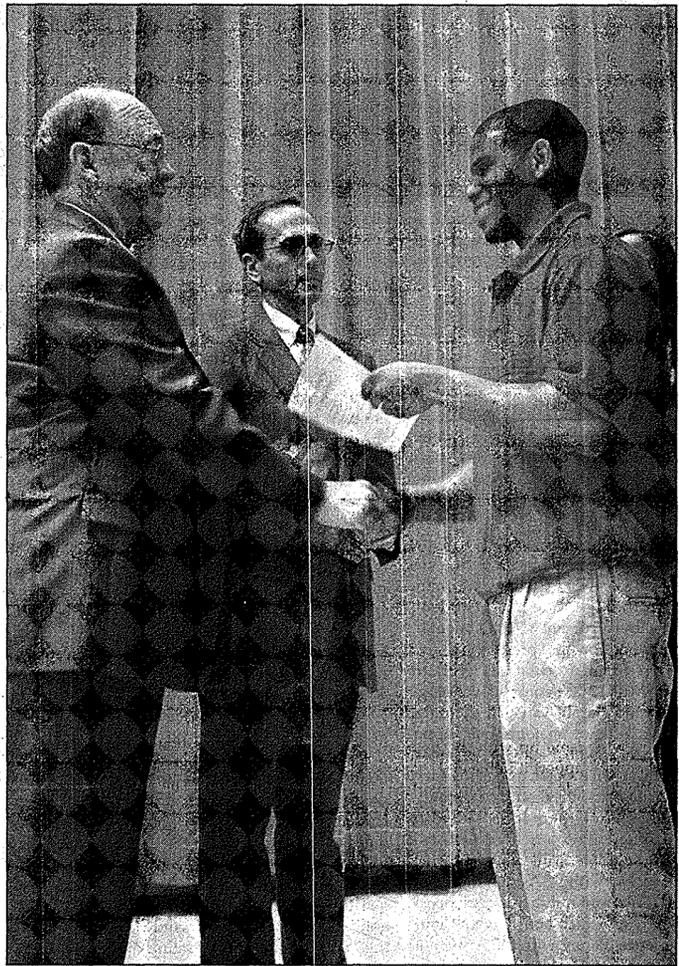
beliefs, Williams told the audience, but you have to be willing to go beyond your comfort zone when dealing with others who are different than you. "It's easy to talk about how others should be more diverse when looking at it from our perspective," Williams said. "But are we willing to look introspectively and say things about ourselves?" After the speech, Joe Iesue, president of YSU's Student Diversity Council, said it was great to hear that Williams stands for the same things Student Diversity Council stands for. Student Diversity Council wants to let people know how much diversity we truly have at YSU, Iesue said. "I think we have diversity to be proud of," Iesue said. Sandra Martin, a non-traditional freshman and a member of Student Diversity Council, joked that she also "belongs in the category of 'old' white ladies." She said she'd like to see a lot more participation from everyone at YSU. William Blake, YSU's director of student diversity programs, called Williams' speech fantastic. "I think he basically summed up how he feels about diversity, and the power diversity brings to try to enrich this communi-

SWEET, continued from page 1

allowances into Sweet's salary over a period of three years. At this point, about half of the \$60,000 in benefits are paid to him as salary with the remaining sums being phased in July 1 this year and July 1, 2007. When his contract was extended and reconfigured in 2004, YSU Trustee John Pogue told The Jambar that the housing and car allowances were transferred so Sweet would receive "a somewhat larger salary for the purpose of retirement calculation." In a recent interview with a Jambar reporter, Pogue said he has little information about what STRS has said and what the university needs to do to correct the situation. He said his only information has come directly from Sweet. A STRS spokeswoman said she could not comment specifically on Sweet's situation, but addressed the practice of adding car and housing allowances into base salaries. "If it is blatantly obvious that [a university] is taking those figures and sticking them into the base salary, it would be more questionable in our mind and we would be more

strict in reviewing," she said. She also said STRS is cautious when reviewing the last three years of a person's employment, making sure there aren't any large salary increases. She cited a section of the Ohio Revised Code that addresses what can be counted for retirement compensation. "Compensation does not include incidental benefits, including lodging, food, laundry, parking, or services furnished by the employer, use of the employer's property or equipment, and reimbursement for job-related expenses authorized by the employer, including moving and travel expenses and expenses related to professional development," she quoted. Sweet said he has decided not to pursue this any further but did not explain if his salary has been adjusted. "I am focusing on a number of issues here on campus," Sweet said, adding that he's sure he'll return to this issue down the road.

ty. If we're going to become something different, we've got to do things a little differently instead of staying in the enclaves we've been in, in the past. I think he's just the person to make that happen in the Mahoning Valley," Blake said. YSU trustee Scott Schulick introduced Williams to the crowd. Though he and Williams both graduated from YSU in 1994, Schulick said met for the first time several years later when they worked together for CityScape while Williams was part of the Community Development Agency. "We continue to be baffled by the fact that our paths never crossed during that period of time," Schulick said. "However, I am glad to have crossed paths with Jay this time around." Before Williams spoke, Cheryl Levy, of YSU's financial aid department, honored YSU students who have served in the military. Eleven veterans were on hand for the recognition, and they received a standing ovation. She said YSU has 251 veterans enrolled, and they have served in places like Iraq, Kosovo, Southwest Asia, Africa, Haiti, Germany and Korea. Call Leonard Glenn Crist at (330) 941-1991.



Jambar/Katie Libecco
YSU President David Sweet presents veteran Derek Caffey with a certificate of recognition during Wednesday's Celebration of Diversity and Recognition Banquet, which recognized the service of YSU students in the military. There are 251 veterans currently enrolled at YSU.

EDUCATION continued from page 1

"It would go directly to tuition relief for students and not things like constructing a new hall or field house," Petro's spokesperson said. Democratic candidate and U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland will unveil his higher education proposal in April, a spokesperson said. However, Strickland proposed a continuing education plan for Ohio workers, which he said he believed would result in more businesses seeking out Ohio and in a better-trained state workforce. Strickland's plan would offer free workplace training to companies that can create twenty new jobs a year. Strickland's spokesperson said the proposal would attract companies who could capitalize on free training to set up new businesses in Ohio.

Another of Strickland's worker education proposals is called the "Open Door Card." Strickland's plan is for workers to use the card to access the maximum amount of state and federal funding or benefits they could qualify for. The workers could use this to receive additional educational or technical training in their field. Strickland proposes to fund his plans through the federal Workforce Investment Act, which provides government funding for workforce training. Strickland's Web site said Ohio only uses 59 percent of these funds. Strickland's spokesperson said the congressman was committed to making college more affordable. "Education is central to his Turnaround Ohio proposal," Strickland's spokesperson

said. The other Republican candidate, Ken Blackwell, Ohio's secretary of state has a plan focusing more on primary education. A spokesperson for Blackwell said further plans would be revealed after the primaries in May. Blackwell is so far proposing a "65 cent Plan" for primary education, which he claims will increase classroom instruction by \$1.2 billion a year without a tax increase. The plan would require schools to spend 65 percent of their operational budget on "classroom instruction." Classroom instruction funds would go to providing teachers, supplies and activities such as field trips and arts. Blackwell's Web site claims classroom spending, and not a school's total budget, resulted in better test scores and

more successful pupils. Bill Pierce, an economist and Ohio's Libertarian candidate, has a plan that also looks at primary education. Pierce's "Freedom to Prosper" plan would divide the state education budget into grants of \$3,000. Ohio families would then be able to send their children to any school in the state, regardless of their location. The grants would go to fund the school that the child attended. "State funding will no longer go to failing schools, but will have to be earned by performance," said a statement on Pierce's Web site. Primaries for Ohio's Governor race will be held on May 2. Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989

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The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. The Jambar is free. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won 37 Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

OUR SIDE SGA should have done their homework

Did anybody think the Student Government proposed \$50 fee was a good idea? Monday's "emergency" meeting seemed to prove no one did.

The plan called for placing an initiative on SGA's ballot this spring that would have asked the following question:

"Shall a \$50 additional fee per semester at YSU be added, which would require renewal after four years, for the purpose of campus capital improvement, provided that the funds were controlled by the student body through their elected representatives on the Student Government Association?"

We certainly didn't support the fee, but at Monday's meeting, the resolution couldn't even manage to garner a single affirmative vote.

Even Josh Hiznay, SGA's president for financial affairs who came up with the hypocritical plan, declined to support it in the end.

"We didn't do as much homework as we should have," Hiznay said Monday.

They didn't do enough homework? The fee would have brought approximately \$1.2 million under SGA's control each year. You think they would have worked out the plan completely before making it such a big issue.

An opposition group, Students Who Care About Students, was formed. Hiznay and SGA Rep. Joe Iesue engaged in heated and often personal (and petty) arguments. More than once the resolution was set to be voted on by SGA, only to be postponed. The elections were fast approaching. This wasn't just a foggy idea. This was close to actually happening.

Ultimately, of course, it was voted down; the right move on the part of SGA.

But all of this has left us wondering: What was the point?

Given the intense bickering between Hiznay and Iesue about the fee and related subjects, you would think that someone cared about the fee enough to vote to include it on the ballot. Nobody did, however, which leaves a few possibilities why the plan ended up the way it did, none of which shines a very positive light on SGA:

1. Hiznay's plan to entrust a multi-million dollar fund to future SGA administrations by adding \$50 to an already over-inflated tuition bill was so monumentally irresponsible that Hiznay himself couldn't honestly vote for it.

2. A large number of student government representatives are as effectual as flock of sheep or a colony of lemmings, doing only what their leadership advises.

3. Fearing possible backlash come election time, representatives backed off a politically unpopular resolution not because they didn't want to vote for it but because they wanted students to vote for them.

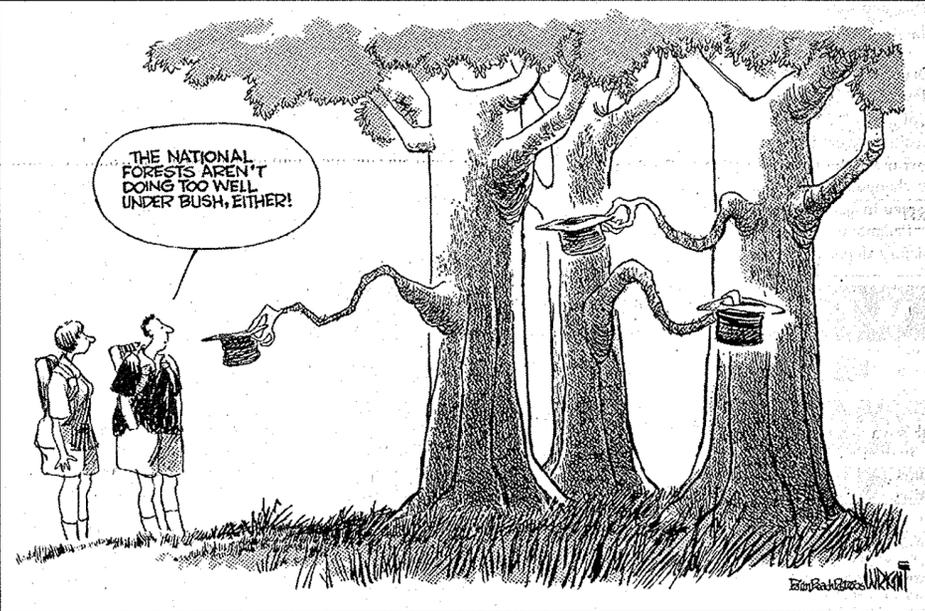
The efforts of Joe Iesue and SWCAS should be applauded. Their arguments may have been crude (and poorly copy edited), but they were well-intentioned. It was good to hear somebody (other than this editorial board) stand up for the hard working students who pay for their own tuition and simply can't afford extra fees piled on to the bill.

The idea of giving students control of capital improvements isn't a bad one, but raising tuition and entrusting SGA with the purse to achieve that goal simply isn't wise.

SGA should have realized this far earlier.

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

University Scholars empathize with regular students

Editor:

As a sophomore University Scholar who is not a member of the Student Government Association, I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Scholar program.

It seems that recently, the scholar program has been under fire. The ability of the scholars to understand the plight of fellow cash-strapped students has been questioned, as was mentioned in Tuesday's paper. As a scholar, I am saddened by this idea, because I feel that we have the capability to understand the financial plights of other students, as do the members of student government who are looking into financial issues.

I feel that every person, no matter who they are, has the capability to empathize with those who are in situations that they themselves haven't experienced. For example, special education teachers are able to understand their students with disabilities and push them to their full potential, even though they have not had the disabilities themselves. In this same way, governments of any type can understand and empathize with their constituents, even though many

of the representatives have not experienced all of the similar situations that their constituents have. As such, I am certain that University Scholars who are representatives of student government are able to understand the plight of their fellow students who have to deal with financial burdens.

Also, I feel that I should mention that many of us, as scholars, end up taking summer classes or classes beyond our 16-hour limit. As such, we do feel marginal effects from any tuition increases as well. I understand that this is nowhere near the burden that most students feel from tuition increases. However, I do feel that it gives us some perspective on the financial situation that most students face.

This letter is not a criticism of any party or point-of-view. I want to make that point very clear. I just wanted to speak in support of the University Scholar program, as the program is very important to me.

Lastly, I would like to make one final point. I am certain that, just like the rest of the student government, the Scholars involved want to do everything they possibly can to make this university a better place. For better or worse, I am certain that was the intent of their proposed \$50. I believe that they wanted to improve the university for all students. I ask

that the students of this campus please also do their best to make the university a better place.

Jeff Morckel

Corruption hits close to home

Editor:

In my past letters to the editor, I have talked some about Youngstown's culture of corruption and the effect it has on the city. I have cited the Democrats as being a primary problem for the flourishing of organized crime activity and corrupt public practices. If Marc Dann wanted to find corruption, he need not look any farther than his own city.

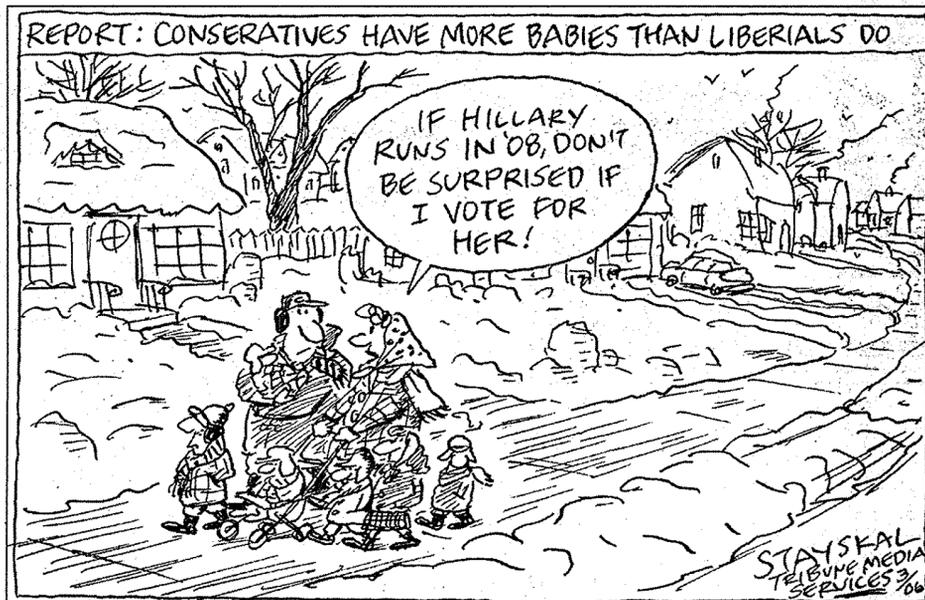
Last week, former judge Patrick Kerrigan was given a job by the city paying \$28 an hour with Lien Forward Ohio as interim director, which has a lot to do with redeveloping abandoned property. Patrick Kerrigan also served over two years in jail for extortion related practices, and was indicted for eight counts related to bribery and taking kickbacks while on the bench. Funny how the more things change, the more they stay the same.

In all of Youngstown, the city could not find a person who hasn't done a stint in prison, or was not a symbol of bought justice in a

mobbed up political system? For those students in political science, criminal justice, and accounting, take a look at the phenomena. What you have here is a convicted felon handpicked for a job out of many legitimate prospects. Why? Reformed or not, something does not seem right about Kerrigan getting this job.

As citizens of Youngstown, as students of this school, we cannot let this city be thrown back to the wolves. It was only ten years ago prosecutors were getting knocked off because of the idea of bought justice. And now we have convicted felons coming back into the public scene? It is outrageous and downright disturbing. As a taxpayer, ask yourself how comfortable you'd feel paying the wages of a former judge who was convicted of extortion related practices. \$20 says you wouldn't feel too comfortable, regardless if Kerrigan reformed or not. Putting these kinds of people back into public service is not a good message to send. Youngstown has come too far to mess around like this, and going back to the old way of doing things is not an option we should consider. I don't care which party you represent, because this is beyond political affiliation. Youngstown needs to move on, not bring back the past.

Alex Mangie



Trends show increase of female faculty

By: Maysoon Abdelrasul
FEATURES REPORTER

There are more women on the campus of Youngstown State University today than in the past, but men still dominate.

The number of female faculty members and students has increased over the years at YSU, and some faculty members are hoping the trend continues.

Martha Pallante, chair of the History Department, lead a panel discussion yesterday, "The Changing Role of Women in the University." Five women in administrative positions were included.

She said women's roles have significantly changed, but they are still under-represented in academia.

Pallante was the first woman hired in the history department since the 1970s. There

was one woman in the department for three decades before her, she said.

Out of the 13 faculty members now in the history department, six are women she said.

"YSU has done a good job over the years providing gender balances," she said.

YSU Institutional Research statistics back up Pallante's opinions. In the Fall of 2001, women made up 33.6 percent of the full-time faculty at YSU. Every year since then, the number gradually increased. The number of women faculty as of last year was 37.2 percent.

College Breakdown

The percent of women faculty has increased in all colleges in the past five years. For instance, in the College of Business Administration, 25 percent of full time faculty are women, 5 percent higher

than in 2002.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the College of Business Administration, said she wants to see more women faculty but it is more than before. The reason she gave for the low number is because 50 years ago it was a male dominated field and there was shortage of women getting doctorate degrees.

The lowest percent of women faculty members can be seen in the College of Engineering and Technology, but at the same time it has increased the most over the years.

In the fall of 2001, women comprised 3.4 percent of engineering faculty, but by the end of 2003 that same number jumped to 6.9 percent. Now, 9.7 percent of the full time faculty are women.

One college that has a significantly high percentage of full-time women faculty

members is the College of Health and Human Services. The Institutional Research statistics show faculty members in the college are equal to more than double the amount of women in the field.

As the years go by, numbers do fluctuate. As of 2001, 69.6 percent of the faculty members in the College of Health and Human Services were women. In 2002, the college saw the highest percent, 73.8. It decreased last year to 70.1 percent — still higher than any other college at YSU.

There are more female students enrolled at YSU than male students. The total enrollment of YSU students in 2004 was 12,360. More than half of the 12,360 were female students and as of the current spring semester, the percents stayed the same.

Call Maysoon Abdelrasul at (330) 941-3758.

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CONCERT TICKETS

Promoters auctioning off best seats

By: Jim Farber
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS (KRT)

Concert promoters used to sell tickets at set-in-stone prices — even if those prices went up every year.

But a new trend has artists and promoters forcing fans to bid on the best seats in the house — something they only experienced before from rogue Internet entrepreneurs or scalpers.

Frustrated by the astronomical prices some Internet companies get for resold ducats, America's largest ticketing agency, Ticketmaster, has convinced top artists from Coldplay to Bon Jovi to use what they call "dynamic pricing."

In this system, the most desirable seats are offered in timed auctions, with bids often opening above the face value of the ticket, then shooting north, based on demand.

Last weekend, for instance, Ticketmaster for

the Faith Hill/Tim McGraw tour, which hits Madison Square Garden June 23. (Minimum bid: \$120, up from the normal top ticket fee of \$99.50.)

"This helps keep tickets out of the unauthorized, secondary markets where (another company) determines how much the consumer is going to pay," explains Ticketmaster spokeswoman Bonnie Poindexter. "This way, fans decide."

"Dynamic pricing" began in June 2003 for a Lewis Johnson fight in Los Angeles. But it has only started to catch on in the concert industry in the last year. Ticketmaster claims the number of authorized auctions has risen 237 percent in 2005. The average number of tickets per show sold this way jumped from 17 to 61 last year. But, according to Poindexter, artists and fans have reacted so eagerly that soon

ticketmaster may put as much as half the house on sale by auction for certain shows.

Because this might raise prices overall, observers like Gary Bongiovanni, editor of the concert trade magazine Pollstar, believe some artists are "gun shy that the public will perceive this as gross profiteering."

Yet the industry feels it's more fair for the money to go to those involved in the show than to outsiders. And Poindexter argues that "dynamic pricing" at the top end can lead to a corresponding reduction in prices at the bottom, with people bidding down the nosebleed seats.

Regardless, Bongiovanni believes fans will get over whatever negative perceptions they have, the same way they did with corporate sponsorship at concerts. "People used to be wary," he says. "Now, no one's concerned."

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EDUCATION

Educators aim to improve higher education's image

By: Jodi S. Cohen
CHICAGO TRIBUNE (KRT)

CHICAGO — Saying that higher education needs an image boost, education leaders kicked off a national effort Tuesday to explain why colleges and universities matter.

The campaign will include efforts by nearly 400 colleges to reach out to local communities and policy makers and explain their contributions to society. They hope to convince the public that higher education remains essential to the country's future, and that it should be a state and national funding priority as government support has lagged during the past few years.

"As an industry, we have not done anything like this before," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president for the American Council of Education, the national higher education association behind the campaign. "Our goal is simply to increase public understanding of the broad role that higher education has played in the past and must continue to play in the future."

The "Solutions for our Future" campaign will feature national newspaper and television ads, beginning Thursday during the NCAA college basketball tournament. While he couldn't put a dollar amount on the entire campaign, Hartle said his association will spend \$4.5 million during the next three years and the value of the donated media time and space will be in the mil-

lions.

Backers say the multi-year effort is aimed at showing how the nation's colleges and universities provide practical benefits for everyone, not only current enrollees and graduates. According to the campaign, colleges are the source of new technology and medical improvements, the reason there are Internet search engines and trained emergency personnel to respond to medical crises. And they help revitalize communities, advance culture and the arts, and foster tolerance in society.

By highlighting those contributions, the project strives to convince people that they should view higher education as important a spending priority as health care, defense and K-12 education. However, even as employers increasingly require a college education, state spending on higher education has declined in recent years. Between 2001 and 2004, for example, state appropriations per student declined by 17 percent or about \$1,000 per student, according to the American Council on Education.

Meanwhile, the maximum aid for low-income students under the federal Pell Grant has remained at \$4,050 a year since 2002, not keeping pace with inflation or tuition increases.

The campaign notes that global competition is growing and that the country risks falling behind without increased financial support. Its print ads note that other countries have boosted their public investment in higher education. But the United States currently ranks ninth in the world for the

percentage of high school graduates that go to college, education leaders said.

There are currently 16 million students enrolled in the country's 4,500 two and four-year colleges and universities.

"In a real sense, what this campaign is about is helping the American people understand that accessible, affordable, high-quality education is our key to our individual and national hopes and dreams," said William Kirwan, chancellor of the University of Maryland system.

The public will get that message Thursday during one of the year's most popular sporting events, the NCAA basketball tournament, when the league will air the first of about 20 ads that will run during this spring's basketball and baseball championships.

The NCAA will donate millions of dollars in advertising time to the spots, said NCAA president Myles Brand. The ads were created by GSD&M, an Austin, Texas-based company behind Southwest Airlines' advertising campaign.

Using humor to make its point, one of the three public service announcements features an overnight mail delivery company that tries to entice a pigeon to "air mail" a package. A voiceover says: "Less support for higher education means fewer innovations, like overnight delivery and the Google search engine. America's colleges

and universities — we teach people who solve the problems and change the world."

In Illinois, 17 colleges and universities so far have said they will work to highlight that message.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, chancellor Sylvia Manning said she will try to secure free spots for the ads on local stations. She also will continue explaining the university's health care contributions to state legislators, with the goal of getting more state funding for health care education. About 44 percent of the state's dentists are UIC graduates, and the university's hospital and clinics serve 600,000 patients a year, she said.

"Our purpose has been to tell the state, you have to think of us differently," Manning said. "We have to help people understand the depth and breadth of social importance of what we do."

At Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, university officials will repeat the campaign's messages during public events, speaking engagements and meetings with legislators.

"Any time we have an opportunity to speak with an audience, these are focused messages that we have been and plan to continue to use in our communications," said spokeswoman Melanie Magara. "The crafting of common language is the great value of this campaign."

POKER

College student wins \$1 Million on poker cruise

By: Paul Tosto
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

College student wins \$1 million on poker cruise.

You thought your spring break was fun?

Mike Schneider returned to the University of Minnesota campus this week with a story no one could beat. He spent last week on a cruise ship in the Caribbean, winning \$1 million playing poker.

A soft-spoken journalism student with a good memory and math skills, Schneider, 22, beat out veteran poker players for the top prize in the PartyPoker.com Million tournament, a competition that bills itself as the world's largest Limit Hold'em contest.

Schneider, from Eagan, Minn., is a regular at the Canterbury Park Card Club and uses poker to pay his way through school. The PartyPoker.com gig was his second high-stakes tournament.

When he boarded the PartyPoker boat, he wasn't planning to play, Schneider said.

He had gone with a few friends who qualified for the tournament by playing online.

"I did not initially intend to play in the tournament, but once on the boat, I decided I wanted to. So I bought in directly and sold some of my action to some friends, too," he said in an e-mail.

High-stakes poker has

exploded. Celebrity players have helped make it sexy, and television broadcasts brought it to a huge new audience. College-age students are among the fastest-growing player group.

While big-dollar tournaments have mushroomed the past five years, it's still unusual to have someone as young as Schneider win so much so quickly.

As successes go, "it's a pretty big one," said Jerry Fuller, vice president of operations at Canterbury Park Card Club in Shakopee, Minn.

Schneider said he began playing poker in home games with friends four years ago during spring break. "We all enjoyed the experience and continued playing with each other until we went off to college, and then I began playing some online, too. I enjoy the challenge of poker and am very competitive."

Patience, logic, math and observation skills helped him become a solid poker player, he said.

"He's kind of a quiet kid. I think he's a smart boy," said Kathy Schneider, his mother. "I knew he was going (to the tournament) but, no, I did not expect this. I'm still kind of shocked."

In a PartyPoker.com press release, Schneider said he wasn't sure he'd make it past the first three hands on the second day of the tournament. He said he had two dreams: "one that I would

bust out" and a second that he'd rally.

"That second dream was pretty close," he said. "But I sure didn't have a dream that foresaw a million dollars!"

Schneider expects he'll get about \$600,000 of the \$1 million after taxes. "My cut will be less than that because I owe some people money due to them taking a cut of my action in this tournament," he told the Pioneer Press.

He graduates this year and hopes to play poker for a year or two afterward. Getting a degree is a backup plan "to ensure I have a variety of options throughout life."

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NEW ON DVD

Reviews of recent and upcoming DVDs

By: Billy O'Keefe
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS (KRT)

"Capote" (R, 2005, Sony Pictures)

You wouldn't be at fault for assuming "Capote" is a biopic about the life of famed writer Truman Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman). Thankfully, though, you would be mistaken. "Capote" the movie is indeed about Capote the man. But it's also about Richard Hickock (Mark Pellegrino) and Perry Smith (Clifton Collins Jr.), the two killers whose small-town crime inspired a book, "In Cold Blood," that launched its author both to new occupational heights and straight into a wind-tunnel of self-absorption, depression and futility. Hoffman's eerie possession of Capote's spirit is indeed worthy of the Oscar he just added to his trophy case, but it's the film's ability to eschew the usual biopic tricks and really home in on good stuff that makes it so engrossing. Much like the book around which this story is told, "Capote" is good fiction that just so happens not to be fiction at all. Catherine Keener, Chris Cooper and Bruce Greenwood also star.

Extras: Two director commentaries (one with Hoffman), two-part making-of feature, short Capote feature.

"A League of Ordinary Gentlemen" (R, 2004, Magnolia)

Remember how you could occasionally (and probably accidentally) catch pro bowling on TV some slow Saturday afternoon? That went away in 1997, when ABC decided it had better things to do than give its airtime to the then-floundering PBA. In the wonderfully engaging "A League of Ordinary Gentlemen" the PBA, once left for dead, is on the rebound with new management, a new championship format and a not-your-father's-bowling-association approach to reeling in the attention spans of the country before it reaches for its collective remote. Does the gambit work? Depends on who you ask. Filmed over the course of a season and focusing on a quartet of bowlers in very different stages of their careers and lives, "Gentleman" is funny, emotionally transcendent and against all odds and in part because of an

ending conspiracy theorists will swear is scripted... exciting.

Extras: Deleted scenes, PBA promos, highlights and event clips, bowling tips.

"Keane" (R, 2005, Magnolia)

William Keane (Damian Lewis) is convinced his daughter has been abducted. And for all we know, he's right. Then again, she could simply be living with her mom and his ex-wife. Or, for all we know, there is no daughter. When we're thrown into "Keane," we're left just as confused as the film's namesake, and we have no choice but to depend on a man who is... whether justified or not... on the fast track to losing his mind. "Keane" is far more character-driven than plot-driven, choosing to deconstruct its lead in the same way most films construct theirs. If you want a typical lost-child film with an easy ending, there's always "Flightplan." But if you want to see something truly unsettling and tense, look no further. You may hate the film as much as someone else loves it, but it'll be a while before you forget it.

Extra: A remix of the film by executive producer Steven Soderbergh.

"The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" (PG-13, 2005, Dreamworks)

Housewife Evelyn Ryan (Julianne Moore) has 10 kids, an empty purse and a temperamental husband (Woody Harrelson) who blows most of his paycheck on booze. Fortunately, she has a ridiculous gift for winning enough limerick contests... courtesy of everyone from Beechnut Gum to Dial Soap to a local grocery... to keep her family's collective head just above water. How ludicrous is that? Amazingly, not at all: It's a true story. "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" got the sandbag treatment from Dreamworks, which was too busy promoting its lousy "War of the Worlds" cash-in to care. Too bad. "Ohio" is based on a book of the same name written by one of the Ryan kids, and the choppy script regularly suffers from its need to cram in parts of the book it later has no time to revisit or resolve. But Moore is great as Ryan, and Harrelson even better as an outsider in his

own family. And there's plenty of style and sweetness and just enough brutal honesty to make "Ohio's" flaws forgivable.

Extras: Moore commentary, director commentary, photo gallery.

"Show Me" (R, 2004, Wolfe)

Sarah (Michelle Nolden) is stuck in traffic in her luxury car when a couple of squeegee kids (Gabriel Hogan, Katharine Isabelle) decide to hop in, push for a ride and take her hostage when the coast is a little clearer. Unfortunately for them, Sarah isn't the clueless yuppie she originally appears to be, and when the kids stop at a cabin in the woods to plan their next move, she decides to play a game of divide and conquer. It's a good premise, and "Show Me" is gifted with three good actors to carry it, but the script slowly pushes the bounds of credibility to and eventually past the breaking point. By the time the final act arrives, the disconnect is too large to make what happens next worth any real consequence.

Extras: Director commentary, behind-the-scenes feature.

"Over There" (NR, 2005, Fox)

Give "Over There" credit where it's due: It's the first scripted show in TV history to portray an American war currently in progress. And while questions of its authenticity are up in the air... differing opinions have deemed it wildly inaccurate and spot on, so who knows... the show is beautifully shot and really cooks during its most tense moments. Unfortunately, these moments are too often interrupted by a host of after-school-special topics... race, Arabs in the army, crumbling relationships, estranged fathers, the ridiculous notion of a handicapped soldier wanting to return to combat... that fall into the hands of a cast of generally forgettable characters. "Over There" isn't overtly political, but it sure can be preachy. The show seems to come into its own as the episodes tick away, but not soon enough to save it from cancellation. So enjoy what you get, because this likely is it. Includes 13 episodes (commentary on two), plus a making-of documentary and

behind-the-scenes feature.

"Paul Mooney's Analyzing White America" (NR, 2002, Shout! Factory)

Many a black comedian has rightly prospered by observing the everyday failings of the white man, but Paul Mooney (known most famously as Negrodamus on "Chappelle's Show") takes it to new extremes in this hour-long live special. Is he funny? He can be: When "Analyzing White America" manages a laugh, it's usually a big one. But the overall body of work resembles a public venting of anger more than a night of standup. You kind of hope Mooney is at least partly in character: His anger may be justified, and it might stir you up one way or another, but all this borderline hatred doesn't do a whole lot of good if it doesn't go anywhere.

Extra: Mooney interview, conducted by Tim Reid.

"The Tenants" (R, 2006, Sony Pictures)

Writer Harry Lesser (Dylan McDermott) is the only tenant remaining in an all-but-abandoned apartment building, but he's not leaving until his third novel is finished. One night, he discovers another writer (Snoop Dogg) squatting down the hall while also working on a manuscript. From there... er, stuff happens. They scrap, they babble, they sulk, they pine over a girl (Rose Byrne) too good for either of them. To what end, you ask? Good question. "The Tenants" is a film with almost no self-awareness, trying to pass off ridiculous platitudes as everyday conversation and schizophrenically meandering toward its conclusion despite being too depressed to really go anywhere. If you start the film, you'll absolutely finish it, but only because you want... nay, need... to see just what ridiculous bag of tricks it'll try to sell you next. Don't worry: The almost comical ending makes the gamble worthwhile. Not exactly the kind of praise a film desires, perhaps. But it's better than the alternative, which is no praise at all.

No extras.

TENNIS, continued from page 8

6-1, 6-0; No. 2 Thomas defeated Kim Harclerode 6-0, 6-2 and Allison Day defeated Leah Friedman in a super tiebreaker 10-8. The heated contest went into tiebreaker do to time constraints for the center. "It's kind of hard since we all just went on spring break. We haven't been playing that much but its nice to get back into the groove and get comfortable out there," Thomas said.

Although the team's record is 3-6 on the season, Thomas said that the team has lofty goals.

"Naturally our main goal is to win the conference. And we're supposed to win for her baby," Thomas said.

Ronan will remain the coach until Grimm can take over. Ronan said she wants to come back as soon as possible, especially in time for the Horizon League championship. But until she is cleared by the doctors, Ronan will coach.

Ronan emphasized that the women are still Grimm's team.

"To me its still Michele's team, win or lose. She gets the credit. These are her girls and it's a very strong team. They were second in the conference last year, and they are expected to do well in the conference this year," Ronan said.

Call Steve Lettau at (330) 941-1913.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jobs for music majors

"Careers in Music," will feature career opportunities for music majors and will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 31 in Recital Room 1238 in Bliss Hall. Speakers include YSU graduates Beth Hargreaves, former principal and band teacher who is currently a regional manager in the Ohio Department of Education; Rande Isabella, musician and entrepreneur; and David Luscher, associate director of WYSU-FM. For more information, call (330) 941-3515.

Russian classical music

There will be a free public lecture entitled "Russian Classical Music: From the Tsars to the Soviets," sponsored by the Department of History. The lecture will feature Isaiah Jackson, director of the Youngstown Symphony

Orchestra and Brian Bonhomme, a professor of Russian History and will be held on April 6 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Debartolo Hall Room 132.

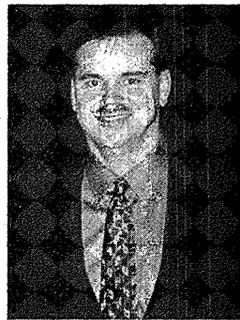
Social Work Day

Social Work Day at YSU will be Monday and events will primarily be held in Kilcawley Center's Presidential Suites. The day starts with opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. by Elaine Stepp, executive director of the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. From 12:45 to 1:40 p.m., the Field Recognition Lunch Buffet, which costs \$13.50 a person, will be in the Ohio Room. Immediately following the buffet, social work students and field instructors will be recognized, social work scholarships will be awarded and the social work intern of the year will be identified. To register, call (330) 941-1598.

Williamson College of Business Administration

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Patrick Calhoun, '84
Former President & Chief Operating Officer
Intercontinental Manufacturing
YSU Alumnus

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, March 28

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Lunch Presentation: *RSVP 330-941-3064*
The Butler Institute of American Art
Zona Auditorium

Patrick Calhoun is the former President & Chief Operating Officer of Intercontinental Manufacturing (IMCO), the sole source supplier to the US Government of Mk 80 series bombs and the aluminum-forging supplier to the Aerospace Industry. He joined the company as Director of Finance in 1996 and, after holding several positions was named IMCO's President in 1999. During his tenure as President, he grew the company from \$40 million to nearly \$150 million in annual revenues by establishing an environment emphasizing clear vision, strong leadership, and the aggressive pursuit of new market opportunities.

IMCO continued to expand and improve its market share and to experience financial growth and success until its acquisition in September 2003 by General Dynamics' Ordnance & Tactical Systems Division. At that time, Mr. Calhoun left the company to pursue other opportunities. He is currently working with former IMCO staff members on a start-up company.

Prior to joining IMCO, Mr. Calhoun spent seven years with Marine Mechanical Corporation of Euclid, Ohio and four years with Goodyear Aerospace of Akron, Ohio. Mr. Calhoun holds a B.S. in B.A. degree from Youngstown State University.

For more information, please contact Christine Shelton, Coordinator of External Relations, at 330-941-3068 or cshelton@ysu.edu.



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Washington, DC -- Congratulations to Daniel Flanagan, Jessie Kinsley, Gary Mariano, Elizabeth Nelson, and David Quillin, MBA students, for competing at the George Washington University International Case Competition. YSU is one of twenty schools chosen to compete from around the world.

Fort Wayne, Indiana -- Congratulations to our Human Resource Management team who placed third out of 16 teams in the statewide Human Resource Games. Dr. Stan Guzell, faculty advisor, will be traveling to Fort Wayne in April with students, Brian Whitfield, Heather Novak, and Chris Solvesky, for the Human Resource regional games.

Sao Paulo, Brazil -- Dr. Mark Toncar will be a visiting professor at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil from March 27-April 1.

For additional updates please check:
www.wcba.yosu.edu

FEATURE

Peaberry's: The Gathering

By: Katie Libecco
COPY EDITOR

Every hangout on campus tends to have its own regular customers who can be found there day after day.

Peaberry's Café is no different. It's a regular Tuesday afternoon, say several Peaberry's employees as they point to a group of students hanging out in the corner of the coffee shop, which located in Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center.

The students, a mix of majors offered at YSU, sit talking while watching "Star Wars: Episode III" on a portable MP3 player.

"I'm looking for a certain fight scene," Joe Merwin, a geology major, explains.

He's joined by Tom Pugh and Shaun Brown, both telecommunications majors and Brandon Martin, a theater major.

When asked how they met, the group gets unusually quiet and a similar puzzled look crosses their face. Some say they met just by hanging out at Peaberry's.

"Certain people I knew from other places," Merwin says.

"It's a spider web," Bryant adds. Overall, the group couldn't remember exactly how they started hanging out together in Peaberry's, but were certain they were the café's most regular customers.

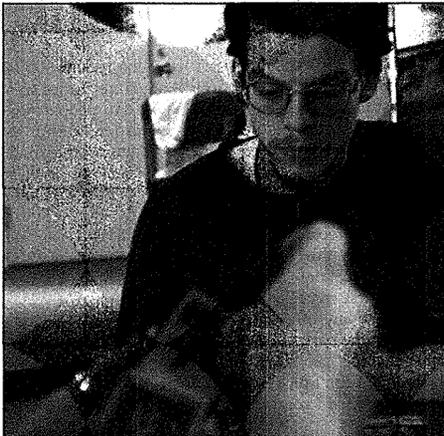
"We're the most frequent of frequents," Merwin says, as he and the rest of the group laugh.

"Yeah, were here pretty much everyday," Bryant adds. They say they spend most of their time talking "about anything and everything," according to Brown.

"There's nothing sacred," Merwin jokes. Some of them say they play cards while at Peaberry's, including the game Magic: The Gathering. As soon as the game's name was mentioned, conversations about the game began throughout the group.

Theater major Carl Sopkovich hears the conversations from across the room and runs over to the group's table to discuss the most rare card ever — which he says is the Black Lotus.

Sopkovich, who's played for about 12 years, says the concept of the game is that "each person is a mage or sorcerer and the deck is their book of tricks." They say all that is needed for the game is a deck that can be purchased for \$10.



"Or, you can put some thought and effort into it and make your own," Sopkovich says.

Merwin, Sopkovich and Bryant say they don't play Magic as much as they used to because they're not obsessive players of the game, just "casual gamers," as Merwin puts it.

"There's two subdivisions of people who play Magic — people who play for fun, casual gamers, and then there's the hardcore person who plays because they have nothing else to do with their lives," Merwin says, who's played for three or four years.

Not everyone in the group plays Magic and they openly make fun of people whose lives revolve around the game. They share urban legends and joke about people who got too obsessed with the game.

"I've been bringing my Tarot cards a lot, too, lately, doing some readings for people here," Sopkovich says.

But at home, the group's activities and hobbies were as diverse as their majors. They range from playing guitar, to working, to animated television and "theater stuff."

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

COMMENTARY

My beef with the church

By: Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

For Catholics during the Lenten season, it's tradition to avoid eating red meat on Fridays and specific holy days as an act of humility. Stews, burgers, and the odd turducken are abstained from, and fried fish — at reduced prices — is downed in large quantities to show personal sacrifice, and the fact that Western religions make "fasting" into a gut-busting hedonistic party. Basket upon oily basket of cod was not enough for one Atlanta congregation, though, as St. Patrick's Day fell on a Friday this year, and parishioners demanded their corn beef, damnation or no. Phone calls were made. Excommunication was considered. Finally, one archbishop made an appeal to God that probably went something like, "Snakes? Ireland? Green beer? Come on, big guy!" and Biblical law was stretched so the faithful could enjoy hot pink, dripping beef.

This isn't the first time the word of God was stretched so a bunch of whiners could have their way. Recently, the Church has done away with Limbo, the fun time good place where un-baptized babies go when they die. For a while people were kept sedated with the rationale of, "Well, Limbo is baby exclusive, so it's not like I'll be hanging out there." As time passed, the spookiness of a floating baby dimension crept people out enough to take action, but I think completely in eliminating Limbo, the Church

went a little too far. I've always had the idea of a theoretical chute that the babies can use to enter Heaven. After all, Limbo was made up, so why can't the Church do a little imaginary renovating?

It's this proof of the malleability of Biblical law that has inspired me to create my own lists of requested reinterpretations and favors. I expect response by mail and/or miracle, and in the case of the latter something cool like a train explosion in the shape of a thumbs-up.

- Can you possibly make the Eucharist more filling? Symbolism is great and everything, but it's no excuse for a balanced meal. When I attended Church, I often thought of getting in line twice for communion, but was too afraid of the reprisal I would face for getting double-salvation. Along with bigger portions, might I also recommend flavors? Creative names like "Cool Ranch Christ" and "Jalapeno Jesus" will land you new members of the T.G.I. Friday's crowd.

- Premarital Sex. Don't you think you're being a bit of a buzzkill here? You may call it "adultery," but I call it "something to do after drinking when you try to forget." Would you rather have me driving around after I get drunk, possibly going to abortion clinics along the way and giving them my support? In a world of instant Heaven for babies, it's only fair that they should suffer on Earth for about 80 years just like us.

- I bought this awesome golden statue of a false idol

"Recently, the church has done away with Limbo, the fun time good place where un-baptized babies go when they die."



Bob Mackey,
Columnist

at a garage sale for 80 bucks, and I can't not worship it! What about if I just did it on Tuesdays?

- Since the Church is in charge of miracles in this country, how about getting rid of all known diseases? Alright, you don't have to get rid of all of them, just the ones I might get. I'm so terrified of prostate cancer that I would do something unthinkable awful — like converting to Scientology — if I was promised safety. On this same subject, could you also make it so no more babies are born inside-out? It's beginning to make people question the existence of God.

- Please disassociate yourself with Christian rock. It's making you look bad.

- It would be a good idea if you made listening to Kirk Cameron a sin. He may have defined our generation as the Holden Caulfield of the '80s on the sitcom, "Growing Pains," but his massive head, as well as creepy confrontational Christianity has let me know what it sounds like when a nation shakes its head "no" in unison. As a motivator, you could also give out \$50 in Heaven Funbucks — to be spent in the afterlife — if we strike him.

- I know there've been a lot of arguments between

Creationists and Evolutionists. If you can't agree that mankind has descended from apes, can't you compromise and agree that we came from a cooler animal, like a raccoon? I sure would like a genetic excuse for my tree-climbing and garbage-eating. Also rabies.

- Could the Church possibly get a new mascot? I know the crucifix has been tradition, but the image of a guy nailed to something doesn't exactly scream, "Come on in!" If aliens landed on this planet and judged a Church based on this symbol, they wouldn't think it was a place of salvation. They would think it was a place where guys are nailed to things, causing them to vaporize our race for being barbarians. I recommend something like the San Diego Chicken.

I know I've strayed from the flock, but you guys have been waffling so much that I figure now is as good a time as any to jump back in. And if you don't think I'm worth it, just remember that Christianity needs jerks to make fun of things, too. Don't you want me on your side?

Bob Mackey thinks heaven is a place on earth, just like Belinda Carlisle. Call (330) 941-1913.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday

The SteelHounds begin their last regular season weekend homestand against the Fort Worth Brahmas at the Chevrolet Centre, 229 E. Front Street. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 - \$22. Call (330) 747-7825 for more information and 1 (866) 443-8849 for tickets.

The Cellar, 162 S. Bridge St., in Struthers, will venture from the norm Friday to present country artist Kellie Lynne with opening act Sarah Michelle. The show begins @ 9 pm (18+) Tickets are \$7 in advance.

Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" will perform its final weekend at Oakland Center for the Arts, 220 W. Boardman St. Directed by Michael Hinge, "Death of a Salesman" tells the story of a failing salesman analyzing his life. The show starts at 8 p.m. Reserve tickets by calling (330) 746-0606.

Saturday

Cedar's Lounge, 23 N. Hazel St. presents WestFest to celebrate Jason West's birthday — the lead singer of the Champions of All Time — who will headline the night. Manifold Stud and Wesker are also scheduled to perform.

The SteelHounds will play their last regular season home game tonight, against the Fort Worth Brahmas at the Chevrolet Centre, 229 E. Front Street. The game starts at 7:05 p.m.

"Musical Enchantment," part of Masterworks Series at the Youngstown Symphony, will feature pianist Arnaldo Cohen at Powers Auditorium, 260 Federal Plaza West. Call (330) 744-0264 for tickets.

The Cellar and Eric Ryan Productions present the Berlin Clothing Company Fashion Show with Minkus, A Voice Like Rhetoric, Fanstap Chicago, and Gates Called Beautiful at 7 p.m. tonight. Sassy Pants Vintage will also be included and Guitar Center is donating a guitar that will be raffled. Tickets are \$5 in advance. (18+)

The Kellys will promote their new CD at Jillian's in the Southern Park Mall's Jillian's. Cover is \$5 for 21+ and \$8 for those under 18.

Want to be included in the Weekend Event Calendar? Let us know what's going on by e-mailing thejambar@gmail.com.

- ▶ 3/23 - Softball @ Pittsburgh
- ▶ 3/25 - Baseball @ Butler
- ▶ 3/26 - Men's Tennis vs. Wright State
- ▶ 3/26 - Baseball @ Butler

PLAYER FEATURE

Freshman Penguin takes home Horizon honor

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

There are a lot of miles between freshman softball player Kristen McDonnell's hometown of Keizer, Oregon and Youngstown, but the first-year catcher is making the transition well, according to the Horizon League.

The sophomore was named

the Horizon League Softball Player of the Week behind a .571 batting average and spurring the Penguins to their first win of the season.

McDonnell said despite being the first Penguin this season to win the



award, just being in the position to earn it is better.

"I am just happy I received it," McDonnell said before practice Wednesday afternoon.

Not only has McDonnell set a precedent with the Penguins (1-6) by winning the player of the week award, the frosh also recorded the Penguins' sole homerun this season against the Flashes of Kent State.

McDonnell said her first career collegiate homerun felt like any other she has sent soaring out the park.

"All homeruns feel amazing," McDonnell said. "You can't pick out the best one. But I was surprised I got it for sure."

McDonnell has been one of the key ingredients to the Penguins' potent offensive attack in the short season. Not only does she lead the team in homeruns, she ranks third on the team with a .412 batting average and is tied for most RBIs at four with Tiffany Patteson.

Part of the reason that McDonnell cited in making large strides so early in her college career are people with similar backgrounds surrounding her. McDonnell is one of five Penguins that hail from Oregon. Fellow Oregonians include Lacey Hess, Tasha Hess, Becky Hibner, and Shauna Barry.

McDonnell — she and her fellow Northwesterners insist it's pronounced 'Or-a-gihn' — has made Youngstown her home away from home.

"It definitely made the transition easier," McDonnell said of having the Oregon community around her daily. "It made me more comfortable. I would have transitioned without them, but it would have been much tougher."

While the Penguins are struggling early in the season, McDonnell said that at this point in the campaign, the wins and losses could be misleading.

"That stat can be taken different ways by people. That record is something not to be looked at, at least not for us on the team,"

"Winning sometimes isn't about how much you practice. It is how you are mentally."

— Kristen McDonnell, YSU freshman softball player

McDonnell said. McDonnell said that turning those losses into wins takes more than just drills and practice.

"Winning sometimes isn't about how much you practice. It is how you are mentally," McDonnell said.

The Penguins and McDonnell will need the correct mindset Thursday as they travel to Pitt to take on the Panthers. Game time is set for 3 p.m.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

HOCKEY

Steelhounds reflect on season

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

After the first season of CHL Hockey in Youngstown, the SteelHounds are optimistic about how much the first-year franchise has been able to accomplish and how receptive the area has been in welcoming a new sport.

Bob Hoffman, Director of Media Relations for the SteelHounds, said that the future looks bright for fans and the franchise.

"This season had so much enjoyment and excitement being that it was the inaugural season in Youngstown. The fans were great and showed their support from the first puck drop all the way until the final weekend where the last game of the season will mark yet another sellout," Hoffman said.

The SteelHounds have been anything but the average upstart team, finishing third in the Northeastern division behind a 21-35 effort. The SteelHounds boasted a competitive record in the league in their first season and had playoff hopes until midway through the season.

Hoffman said that building depth and solidifying a lineup around All-Star Jeff Christian, who leads the league in goals with 51 and ranks second in the league in points with 96.

"On the ice, the team did not reach the

lofty goals set forth by ownership and by the head coach," Hoffman said. "Changes will have to be made to bring depth to the hockey club and put this team on the top level in the Central Hockey League. Jeff Christian is one of the top two or three players in this league and has given the instant credibility from the on-ice standpoint."

Perhaps the biggest surprise for the new organization was the community support that flowed into the Chevy Centre downtown. The SteelHounds have continually drawn crowds in excess of 4,000 and have sold out the arena on numerous occasions.

"We had great response from the community and have averaged over 4,000 fans this season in our building whose capacity is 5,717. We have had four sellouts in our first 30 games and with three games remaining are assured of at least one more full house and maybe two," Hoffman said.

The SteelHounds have two remaining games on Friday and Saturday to finish the season on a high note. The SteelHounds will take on the Fort Worth Brahmas, who they've been successful against this season — owning a perfect mark of 5-0 against the Brahmas.

The puck drops in the Chevy Center Friday and Saturday nights at 7:05 p.m.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.



Jambar / Katie Libecco



Jambar / Katie Libecco



Jambar / Katie Libecco

LEFT: Defenseman J.R. Holmes puts a shot on goal during a game earlier in the season for the SteelHounds. **TOP RIGHT:** Forward Chris Richards brings the puck back into scoring range for the SteelHounds in an offensive push at the Chevrolet Centre earlier this season. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Richards fights off an offender while bringing the puck around to put a shot on goal for the SteelHounds in the same game. The SteelHounds finish out their season this weekend against the Ft. Worth Brahmas.

YSU

Women's tennis loses to Pitt 4-3

By: Steve Lettau
REPORTER

Extra motivation. That's what the Youngstown State University women's tennis team had Wednesday afternoon when they hosted the University of Pittsburgh at the Boardman Tennis Center.

Not because the women's team wanted to avenge their fellow student ath-

letes, but for a reason that was closer to their hearts and minds. Michele Grimm, who's spent 10 years as the Penguins' head coach, was in the hospital giving birth.

"When we went to play today we were really trying to work hard and win all our matches for her. We were really worried about her and want everything to be okay," teammate Gina Peretti said.

Eric Ronan, the men's head coach, took over on an interim basis for the women's team. Ronan said the team will do well but that he has to learn what the team is capable of.

"Basically, it's a learning process of me learning the girl's style of games and getting to know how they handle pressure on the courts. So right now it's a learning curve," Ronan

said. "It's a learning experience by both sides. They have to learn my style. I'm coming from the men's game, which is probably a little more aggressive, where the women is a little more baseline, so I'll have to learn with them to."

The team responded well to Ronan, but fell short to Pitt. In doubles action, No. 2 Peretti and Emily Thayer defeated the Panther duo of

Emily Hughes and Christie D'achille 8-5, earning a point for the Penguins. At No. 1 doubles, Allison Day and

Nicole Haralambopoulos were defeated 3-8 by Kristy Borza and Kim Harclerode. The Penguins No. 3 duo of Michele Fulekey and Whitney Thomas lost 5-8 to Annie Davies and Becky Emmers.

Overall, the Penguins lost

match play 4-3.

"Every point that I played I thought, let's do this for coach," Peretti said. Ronan stated that Peretti was playing the "toughest mentally right now".

A two-week layoff due to spring break might have hampered the Penguins' ability, but it did not show. No. 4 Peretti defeated Davis

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