



Nader garners local votes

*After speaking at
Kilcawley Center, the
Green Party presidential
candidate visited the
Museum of Labor and
Industry and dined at
Cedars Cafe.*

By VALERIE BANNER
Jambar Editor

Ralph Nader, the Green Party presidential candidate, focuses his campaign on three things: the environment, workers and consumers.

Nader, who was at YSU Wednesday, spoke to a crowd of about 700 people at 2 p.m. in the Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center. Nader said his main focus is not to become president but to get people informed about the Green Party's platforms.

Betsy Johnquest, co-founder of the Mahoning Valley Green Party, introduced Nader, explaining that he is an alternative to the traditional party candidates.

"The more you find out about George Bush, the more your stomach turns. The more you find out about Al Gore, the more you become disappointed with the Democratic Party," she said.

Nader echoed her sentiments during his speech.

"The two political parties are morphing into one head wearing different make-up," he said.

Nader spoke for approximately an hour, addressing issues that affect workers, consumers and the environment. Afterward, he briefly answered questions from the audience.

Nader's running mate, Winona LaDuke, a Native American woman, was not present.

Shawna Leonard, co-founder of the Mahoning Valley Green Party, said she was excited about the number of people who signed the petition to get Nader on the televised debates with Gore and Bush and the number of people who added their names to the Green Party mailing list.

Most of the issues Nader addressed, such as minimum wage, labor unions and trade policies, were national concerns. He did mention, however, that he wants the WTI incinerator in East Liverpool closed. He spoke there earlier Wednesday.

"I just came from East Liverpool where Gore promised that the incinerator would never open and contaminate those little children in school," he said.

Nader spoke briefly in the Chestnut Room, and at length during the press conference that followed, about rebuilding inner cities such as Youngstown.

Nader said police officers should live in the city, and community credit unions, universal health insurance plans, public transits and strong educational systems should be implemented.

Nader said minimum wage today, when adjusting for inflation, is \$2 lower than it was more than 30 years ago. He suggested raising minimum wage to \$10 an hour.

The American booming economy "should lift all boats, as the saying goes. This economy is growing and lifting all yachts," he said.

The man who is responsible for getting seat belts and air bags in cars with his 1965 book, "Unsafe at Any Speed," is now demanding a repeal of the Taft/Hartley Act of 1947. This act limits what unions can do and allows government to step in when an agreement can't be reached during a strike.

Nader said the trade agreements with other countries are lowering the standards in the United States.

"Our high standards are being restricted by other

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countries," he said. "Gore and Bush want more of this corporately managed trade, more NAFTA," he said.

Nader also said he wants to take government out of the hands of big business owners and give it back to the people.

"Do you want to take our government and change it into a government of the Exxons, by the Duponts and for the General Motors?" he asked.