

## Panel looks Youngstown mob activity

By JACKIE SPENCE  
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Zero tolerance against organized crime was the message sent to students and community members Thursday in a panel discussing "YSU v. the Mob," sponsored by UNA-USA-YSU.

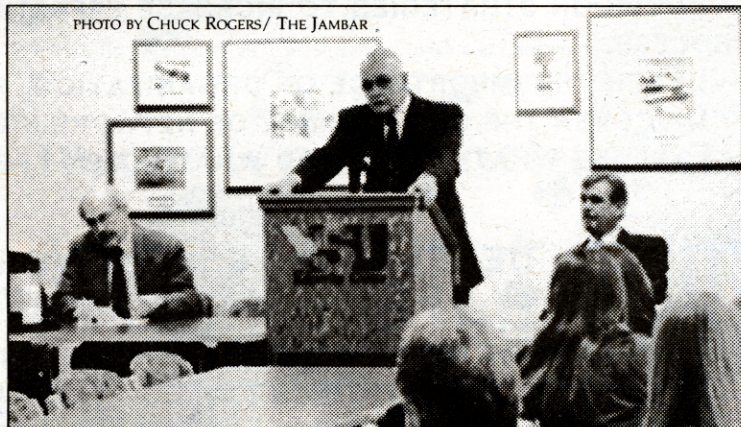
Speakers on the panel were Mahoning County Sheriff Randall Wellington; Dennis Mangan of The Vindicator editorial board; Dr. Anne York, associate professor, history; Edna Pincham of the Pincham Initiative Resource Center; Jim Callen of Northeast Ohio Legal Services; and Bob Black of WFMJ-TV 21, a news anchor and moderator at the event.

The panel spoke on issues they discussed when they went to Palermo, Italy, in December 2000.

York said topics discussed included the organized crime in Palermo and how organized crime has decreased in the city.

"The number one problem that plagued Palermo was voter apathy and citizen apathy," York said.

It wasn't until a new mayor was elected that things started to



**MOB BUSTERS:** Mahoning County Sheriff Randall Wellington addresses the audience at "YSU vs. the Mob."

change, she said.

According to York, some of the new changes involved revamping the educational system, such as children in schools adopting buildings and parks to rebuild and preserve the adopted sites. Children also learn in school about ethical behavior in society.

York said another important change was the reclaiming of Palermo's cultural identity.

Callen said Palermo is very much like Youngstown.

"Both YSU and the Youngstown community are effect-

ed by organized crime due to the reputation this area has gained from organized crime. Businesses, potential college students and families either leave or do not come to Youngstown because they have heard that the Mafia is predominant in Youngstown," Callen said.

Pincham said the only way to change organized crime in this area is to have a zero tolerance for organized crime.

"The only way it can change is

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for the people to change," said Pincham.

Callen agreed and said the culture is the problem because the culture makes it comfortable for the Mafia to live and operate.

Bob Black said, "People need to start talking about organized crime, and what greater way to do this than by getting to the center of our institutions, [such as] our educational systems and churches."

York said, "[The community] needs to look at what we have here and try to make a difference if we want anything to change."