

SOFTBALL: Girls turn around losses for two wins. See PAGE 6.

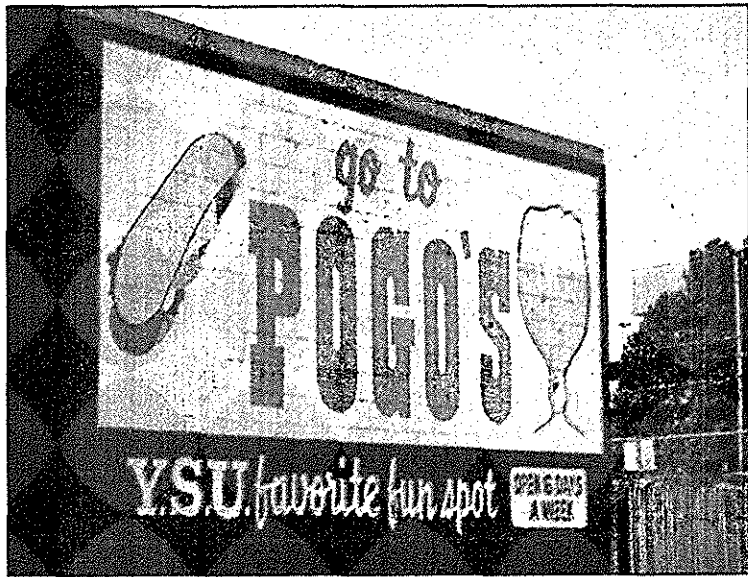
The Jambor

The student voice of Youngstown State University

YOUNGSTOWN

City Council delays redevelopment vote

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR



Jambor / Katie Libecco

This mural still remains on the exterior of Pogo's. This property is one that would be affected if Youngstown decides to continue with plans for Eminent Domain.

The Youngstown City Council sent a city redevelopment plan to the safety committee for review during a meeting on Wednesday. The safety committee will have a public hearing for the topic 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 16.

The plan, which seeks Youngstown State University redevelopment in the area bordered by Lincoln Avenue, Rayen Avenue and Wood Street,

was recommended to the council by the city planning commission in a unanimous vote on Tuesday.

The referral sets aside the controversial plan that has raised the specter of eminent domain for property and business owners in the area. YSU seeks the almost 30-acre plot for redevelopment projects, including building a new business college and an extension of Hazel Street.

University planners and city officials have said they hope the Hazel Street extension

will foster more retail enterprises near campus. The plan is included in Youngstown 2010, a redevelopment plan aiming to breathe life into the city and the YSU Centennial Campus Master Plan.

Property owners and residents were at the planning meeting on Tuesday to voice their concerns. Some were concerned that their property was slated for acquisition in the project.

John Dahlgren represented DB Hartt, a developing consulting company, at

Tuesday's meeting. Dahlgren told the commission his company conducted a study of the area and found that more than 50 percent of the buildings were blighted or showed a blighting influence. This means that the homes were becoming run down. By getting the city to accept this, the area could be considered an urban renewal district.

William D'Avignon, Youngstown's planning

please see **COUNCIL**, Page 2

YSU

Arrests coincide with 4-20 holiday

By: Cheryl Thompson & Bill Rodgers

A Kilcawley House resident was issued a citation by Youngstown State University police for marijuana possession 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Ironically, the marijuana bust happened a day short of weed's biggest holiday, April 20 or 4-20, a day some set aside to light up a fat one. Stoner Christmas, if you will.

According to police reports, the student was caught with a fake book outfitted with a safe that is typically used for concealing or smuggling items. Inside the "booksafe" was a green stem suspected to be marijuana, a small plastic baggie, a set of scales and a YSU parking ticket.

Dorm officer Eric Bowers became suspicious when he heard the book rattle. After noticing the unusual sound, Bowers notified Officer Jason Simon, who also heard the rattling. Reports said they advised the student to open the book, revealing it wasn't intended to be used as a book at all.

Simon called officers Terry Round, Bill Fisher and M. Simcox to help search the student and his companion for narcotics. The search yielded no narcotics.

The student was issued a citation for possession of drugs and is scheduled to appear in court on May 1.

According to police reports, surveillance footage shot prior to the citation showed the student outside of Kilcawley House opening the book safe and passing unknown items to his companion.

please see **4-20**, Page 2

EARTH DAY



Jambor / Steve Lettau

"Cubbie the Bear" (Mo Lawrence), "Trash Queen of Litterfree Land" (Katie Papay) and "King of Litterfree Land" (Greg Mook) celebrate Earth Day dressed in recycled Jambors in front of Kilcawley Center during Wednesday's activities.

Earth Day observed at YSU

By: Steve Lettau
REPORTER

Celebrating Earth Day is as easy as putting this copy of The Jambor into one of the many Youngstown State University recycling bins — after you've finished reading it of course.

Recycling was one of the many topics discussed at the annual YSU Earth Day Festival held in front of Kilcawley Center on Wednesday.

Dan Kuzma, manager of YSU Recycling, said the festival was a great

way for people to become aware of the environment and the efforts that YSU Recycling, Youngstown and Mahoning County do to clean up the area.

"I wish to emphasize the collaboration between the university, county and the city for making a cleaner and greener Youngstown," Kuzma said. "YSU receives national attention for recycling and it would not be possible without everyone's support."

In a press conference Wednesday, Kuzma thanked contributors who

helped with his program. On hand were YSU President David Sweet, Director of Support Services Joe Scarnecchia, Director of the Green Team Jim Petuch and Mahoning County Commissioners Anthony Trafficanti, David Ludt and John McNally. Ludt presented Kuzma and President Sweet with a \$4,200 check.

"This is Earth Day and we have to take care of what we have," Ludt said. "It's great that we can all help make

please see **EARTH DAY**, Page 4

YSU

Faculty remember professor

By: Maysoun Abdelrasul
FEATURES REPORTER

Many remember him as a man who had strong ideas; a man who would stand up for his beliefs in any situation.

John-Christian Smith VI, a philosophy professor at Youngstown State University, died April 14 at the Cleveland Clinic after numerous efforts to treat cancer failed.

Members of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at YSU reflected on the past 20 years of Smith's life as a profound professor, colleague and friend.

His next-door neighbor in DeBartolo Hall, professor Victor Wan-Tatah, said with tears in his eyes that "J.C." would be missed.

"There is no question that his void will be felt by everybody," he said.



SMITH

He said he remembered the last thing Smith shared with him was an article about Africa. The article contained unknown facts about Africa that Smith knew Wan-Tatah would like.

"I was trying to figure why he was interested," Wan-Tatah said.

Wan-Tatah said he was looking forward to discussing the article with Smith but never got the opportunity.

Wan-Tatah and Smith shared something in common; they were both presidents of Phi Kappa Phi, a society that recognizes academic excellence. Smith was also a two-time recipient of the YSU Distinguished Professor

please see **SMITH**, Page 2

GREEK SING

Week celebrates Greek Life on campus

By: Cheryl Thompson
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The annual celebration of Greek Life on campus will culminate this weekend as fraternities and sororities are pitted against each other in song and dance, vying to get a trophy that signifies their dominance in the show.

The 54th Annual Greek Sing competition will be held 6 p.m. Saturday at Stambaugh Auditorium. The event features performances by Youngstown State

University Greek organizations. This year's theme will be music of the 1990s.

The line up includes performances by the Greek sororities and fraternities including Sigma Tau Gamma, Zeta Tau Alpha, Theta Chi, Phi Kappa Tau, Delta Zeta, Alpha Xi Delta, Phi Mu Alpha, Sigma Chi, Alpha Omega Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

With the theme being the '90s, the organizations will present songs such as "Ice, Ice Baby" and "Ninja Rap" by Vanilla Ice, "Crash" by

Dave Matthews Band and "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" by the Backstreet Boys.

President of Alpha Phi Delta, Julian Petrella, whose fraternity is performing "In the Still of the Night" by Boyz II Men, "New Age Girl" by Dead Eye Dick and "What is Love" by Haddaway, said they wanted songs were lesser known but not obscure.

"We voted on songs that you don't hear on the radio too much anymore."

Julian Petrella, President of Alpha Phi Delta

"We voted on songs that you don't hear on the radio too much anymore," Petrella said.

Greek Life co-chair Christine Franz said after being narrowed down to three choices, delegates

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Weather >> sunny

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friday: showers 76 / 54

saturday: showers 68 / 47

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NEWS BRIEFS

International Students hosts spring formal

The International Student Association will host their 2nd Annual Spring Formal from 7 - 11 p.m. April 28 at the Victorian Room, 327 Vienna Ave, in Niles. Provost Robert Herbert will be the special

guest. There is a formal or traditional dress code for each guests' country of origin. Tickets will be \$5 for students and \$20 for faculty. Tickets are on sale at the Center for International Studies and Programs office located in Kilcawley Center.

Fencing League plans first tournament

The YSU Fencing League will host their first tournament in Beeghly Center 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday. The event is open to the public but competitors must be USFA members. USFA registration is available at the door for a \$50 fee.

YSU hosts first Biology Day

The Department of Biological Sciences will sponsor the first "Biology Day," Thursday April 20, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the third floor of Ward Beecher Hall. The event aims to inform students about opportunities in school and careers.

the jambor poll question

Last Question: Did you get your taxes in on time? YES NO 50%

Today's Question: Do you celebrate 4-20? vote online www.thejambor.com Online: thejambor.com thejambor@gmail.com

COUNCIL, continued from page 1

director, said earlier the urban renewal distinction would allow the city to use eminent domain on some of the properties in the area. Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams told The Vindicator that the use of eminent domain for the city to acquire the properties would be a last resort.

Dahlgren received some criticism from commission members and property owners for only doing exterior property evaluations on several of the sites he considered blighted. Dahlgren said the reason for the outside evaluations was that he was unable to get permission to

enter some of the properties. Attorney David Holmquist was at the meeting to represent the former owner of Pogo's, a vacant bar and grill scheduled for acquisition. Holmquist objected to his client's two properties being targeted for acquisition. He said the property was old, but was refurbished on the inside and that no one inspected the interior.

Hunter Morrison, director of YSU's urban and regional studies center, said the exterior of the vacant bar showed signs of being run-down, through broken walkways and a dumpster that sat near the front of the building. He

also said the client's two buildings hadn't shown any activity in some time.

Morrison said the development project wouldn't target properties that were up to city standards.

More criticism came from the YWCA. A director of the YWCA on Rayen said the current plans for redevelopment would cause traffic problems around the entrance to the building. She said her organization would like to encourage the plan, but said it needed more work on accessibility for the YWCA.

Joseph Grenga, who owns a parking lot in the

area, asked the commission to postpone their vote. He disagreed with the idea to extend Hazel Street.

"There's no outcry for a road extension. If the campus was opened up to downtown, where would the students go? To the Draft House?" Grenga said.

Other concerned residents whose property wasn't up for acquisition spoke up at the meeting. One property owner who houses YSU students said he was concerned about the investment he put into his apartments. Morrison said his property would be strengthened by the plan, because it would bring students closer to his housing.

The commission unanimously approved the plan, some saying that they had to balance the possibility of eminent domain against the greater benefit of the plan.

In an interview Monday, Morrison said the changes could help adapt Youngstown to the new economy, a major pillar of the Youngstown 2010 plan.

Morrison said Youngstown is severed from the university when the two should work together. He said he believed making downtown more accessible to students would help new businesses begin to accommodate YSU's student body.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

SMITH, continued from page 1

Award.

His death was "almost predictable" Wan-Tatah said. The doctors said it was no longer necessary for him to be on life support.

Another close colleague of his was Professor Bruce Waller, who said Smith's death was anticipated for sometime.

"It was clear J.C. would not live an extensive amount of time in a coma," Waller said.

Waller described Smith as a "Western rugged individual." He said if Smith thought something was right he did it no matter what anyone thought and followed his own principle.

Smith joined the department in 1986 after completing his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Arizona. Tom Shipka, chairperson of Philosophy and Religious Studies was on the committee that interviewed Smith and he said he was an impressive

candidate.

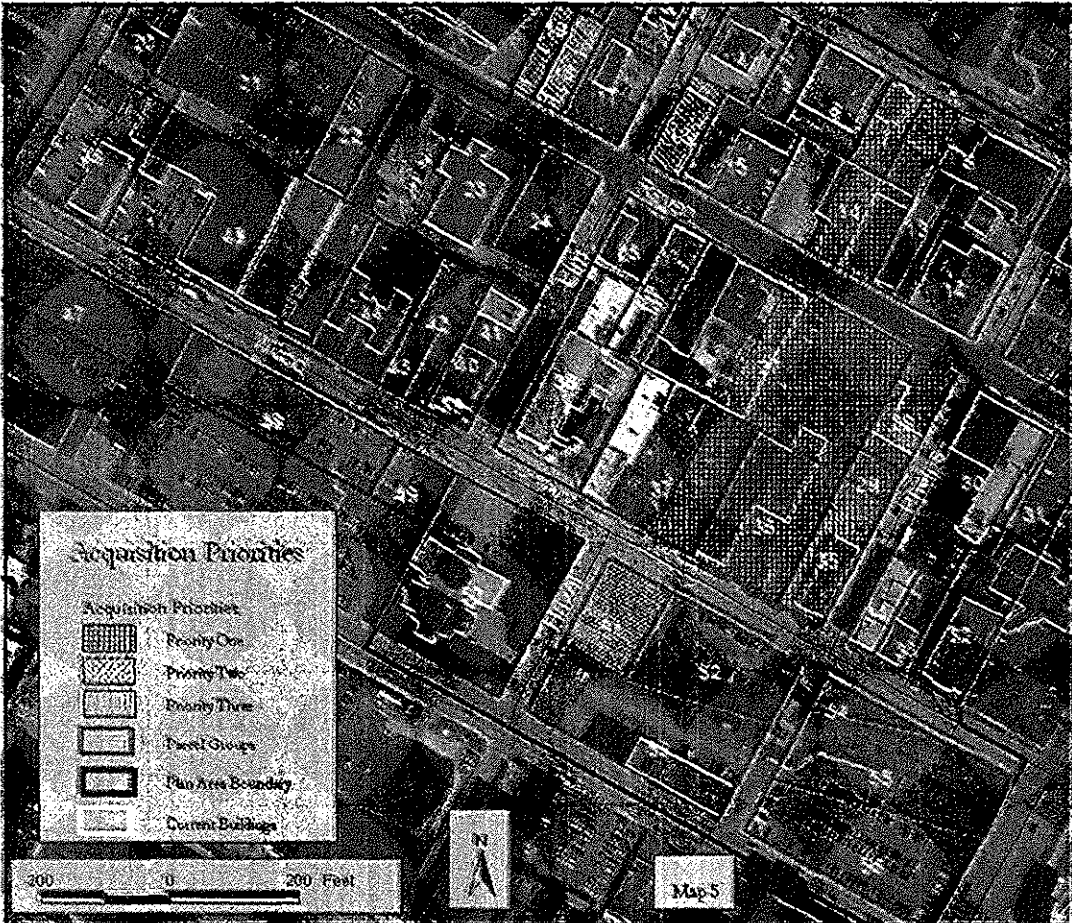
Shipka said Smith had confidence in his students and demanded a lot from them. After a few years of teaching, Shipka said students appreciated him for making them go the extra mile.

"His objective challenge was for YSU students to reach for goals in the classroom that students feared were too high," he said.

The one last thing his colleagues would say to him if they had the chance would be "thank you." Waller wanted to thank him for all his generous help with projects and papers. "He did a lot of positive things for me and helped me out enormously."

"Thank you for being a member of the department and being my next door neighbor," Wan-Tatah said.

Call Maysoon Abdelrasul at (330) 941-3758.



Classified

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4-20, continued from page 1

Sergeant Randy Williams of YSU-PD said there wasn't a correlation between the date and marijuana arrests, that despite 4-20 being the unofficial pot-lover's day to blaze up.

Williams said a search of YSU police records in the past five years revealed no marijuana-related arrests on April 20.

"It's more of an urban legend than anything. There isn't a link between the two," Williams said of 4-20.

Barbara Mikkelson, who operates the urban legend-debunking Web site Snopes.com, said in an article that the origins of the term "420" are vague. She cites many reasons why the drug culture believes the time 4:20 and the day 4-20 are for "The Smoking O' Th' Green." They include the incorrect beliefs that rock stars Jimmy Hendrix and Janis Joplin died at 4:20 and that 420 is the universal police code for a marijuana violation.

In the end, she said the term could be traced back to 1971, when 12 students from the San Rafael High School in California regularly met to burn one down at 4:20 p.m.

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Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, April 20, 2006

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LEONARD GLENN CRIST | Editor in Chief (330) 941-1991
BILL RODGERS | News Editor (330) 941-1989
BRIAN CETINA | Design Editor (330) 941-1807
KATIE LIBECCO | Copy Editor (330) 941-3758

CHERYL THOMPSON | Asst. News Editor (330) 941-1913
ADAM ROGERS | Asst. Design Editor (330) 941-1807
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OUR SIDE City should be leery of eminent domain powers

Youngstown has a problem attracting business. In addition to its bad (and more or less undeserved) reputation as a dying, crime-riddled city, Youngstown also has the highest tax rate in Ohio. As if there weren't enough deterrents, a new reason has cropped up for potential business owners to stay away: impending eminent domain land seizures.

Eminent domain, which is the government power to take land for public uses in exchange for just compensation, has achieved an increased level of notoriety nationwide following last summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case *Kelo v. New London*.

In the decision, the court opened the floodgates of eminent domain abuse by saying cities can seize private property not just for public uses, like roads, but also for economic redevelopment plans. Hypothetically, this means a city could take your house and build a Wal-Mart in its place if it meant more jobs and better taxes for the community.

Youngstown City Council is currently mulling whether to designate as a "community redevelopment area," a strip of land between Lincoln Avenue and Phelps Street that would link Youngstown State University to downtown. Such a designation would pave the way for the city seizing property should the owners not want to sell.

Even if the city doesn't actually seize any properties, the threat alone is enough to intimidate owners into selling land they might not really want to give up.

The city and YSU are working together on the \$2.5 million plan that would extend Hazel Street two more blocks to Lincoln Avenue. According to the *Vindicator*, the city is interested in buying seven properties on Wood Street and Lincoln Avenue; YSU and the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown each own one, Grenga Machine & Welding Co. owns one, one is a commercial building, one is vacant and one is an apartment building.

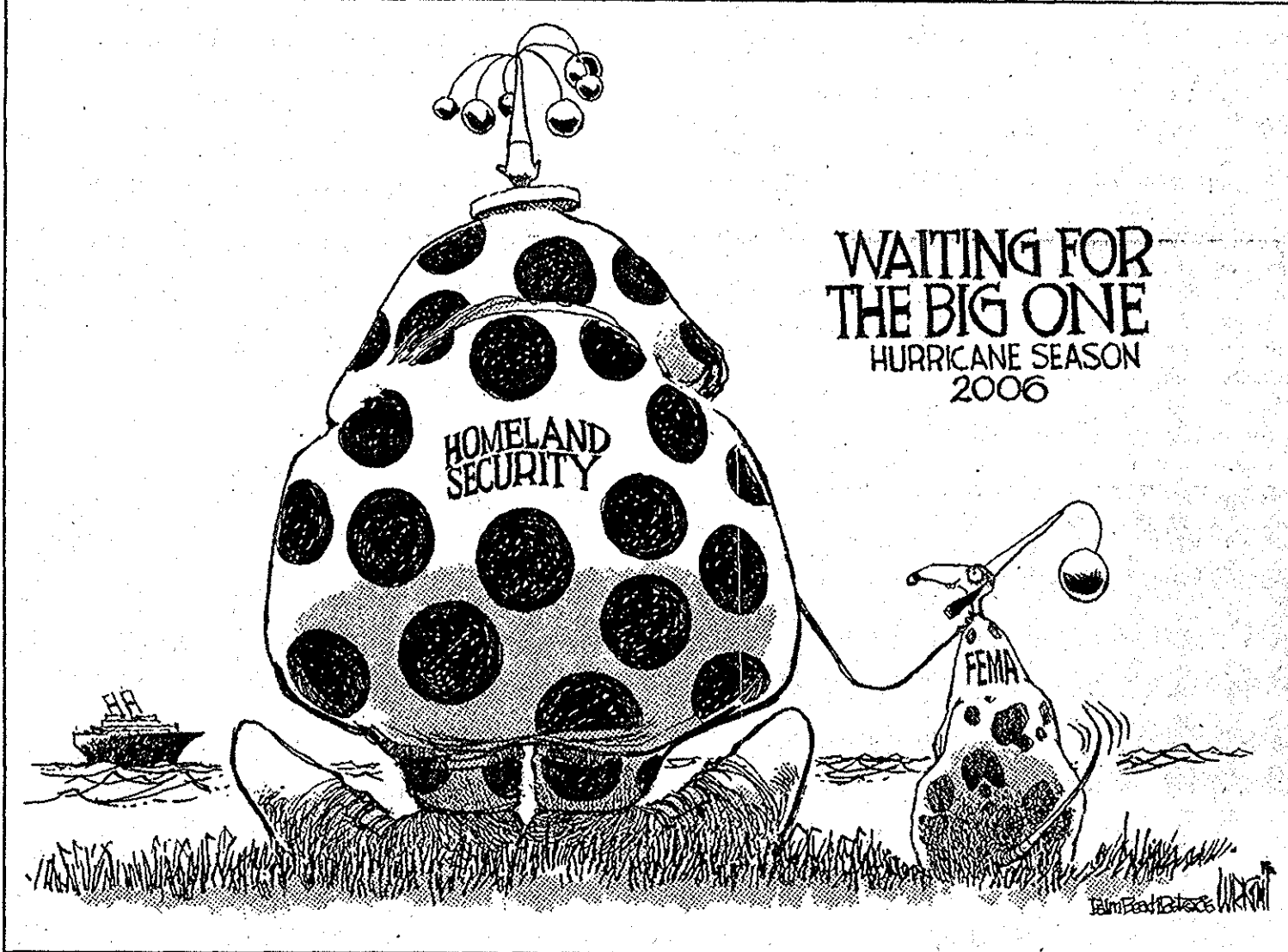
Hunter Morrison, director of YSU's Center for Urban and Regional Studies, said the plan to connect YSU and downtown would help adjust Youngstown to the new economy, a main principle of the Youngstown 2010 plan. It should be noted that Morrison also spearheaded the notorious and now abandoned "Great Lawn" project that would have leveled the campus core to create a more open community space. Universal disdain for the idea brought that plan to a screeching halt.

The plan to connect YSU to downtown, on the surface, sounds OK, but how much can one road really help? There are already a number of other ways to get from YSU to downtown, and this new proposed route from the middle of Lincoln Avenue to Phelps Street doesn't significantly speed up the trip.

Paying \$2.5 million and seizing property from lawful property owners seems like an awfully high price to pay for an unnecessary road that would be a convenience more than anything. More effective and realistic approaches to linking YSU and downtown should be considered before snatching property from the hands of unwilling owners.

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.



COMMENTARY

A solo woman on evening news

By: Karen Heller
KRT CAMPUS

Here it is 2006, and the big news is — wait for it — the old networks have gone and picked a woman to read the news all by herself!

Many publications have devoted reservoirs of ink to the business of Katie Couric jumping ship from NBC's "Today" show to the CBS "Evening News."

This, mind you, is 85 years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Apparently, it takes that long for Americans to accept hearing the news from someone in a skirt, pearls and heels without a man sitting next to her in case she gets the vapors and faints.

Couric, 49, will replace the estimable Bob Schieffer, who is 69 and has filled in since the retirement of Dan Rather, now 74.

That's TV math for you: XX-20 = XY.

Gawker.com, the ne plus ultra of snarky Web sites, has something of an obsession with Couric and Couric's fan-

tastic, never-to-be-encased-in-hose-even-in-the-dead-of-winter legs and Couric's vacations and whether they include surgical touch-ups.

Designed by founder Nick Denton as a superb procrastinating tool for people who love to loaf on the job, gawker.com loves being nasty about pretty, successful, relatively youngish women (well, Couric looks young) doing far better in life than the people with not-so-great jobs and the time to cruise snarky Web sites.

On gawker.com, there's never any mention of Schieffer's ties, though there is furious love for Anderson Cooper.

With a dwindling audience for broadcast evening news, totaling about 29 million, and many of the viewers candidates for Levitra, Couric seems a smart, fresh move. It's unclear whether this will be enough to get younger people to detangle from their devout love affair with the Internet, especially when Couric may appear oldish to them, like Lindsay Lohan's mother or some-

thing, but a network exec can dream.

Still, it's amazing that Couric is news. Women are all over the place on the tube, covering wars, floods, you know, the traditional guy flak-jacket stuff, but back in the studio there's a need to hear the lead-ins from daddy or an avuncular sort in a sweater vest.

Not that other countries are so far ahead. In Italy, women are allowed to read the news provided they take off their tops.

In France, all that liberte, egalite and fraternite works as long as the citizen is white and Gallic. It was only recently that French networks started using broadcasters of African and Arab descent. Martinique-born Audrey Pulvar, speaking to the *New York Times*, revealed that television executives told her that "the French public is not ready" for a nonwhite face and "I already have a black and I don't need another one." That was only a few years ago. Today, she reads the news on the state-run France 3. Again,

it made news.

It's hoped that Couric will be judged as her male colleagues have been, by her work and not her wardrobe decisions (she has fabulous taste, anyway), though I have my doubts. Life is a locker room, as I've remarked before, and it's hard for many people not to get catty about women doing better than they are, even those who are deserving of such success.

Couric has put in her time, and she's shown intelligence, tenacity, charm and, yes, a certain amount of sparkle required for the trade.

Sure, she's done her share of dumb things on "Today" but, then, hasn't everyone?

In an ideal world, if she does her job well and the ratings improve, Couric should be allowed to keep the post well into late middle age, when most women tend to mysteriously vanish from screens small and large.

The true news would be that Couric is allowed to mature, even wrinkle, and still be doing the news at the same age as Schieffer.



GREEK, continued from page 1

from each of YSU's social fraternities and sororities voted on the theme.

Although Franz said she couldn't recall all of the other choices, one theme that came close was "One-Hit-Wonders."

As Greek Life co-chair and member of Alpha Omega Pi, Franz said she worked to plan the event and is looking forward to the festivities.

"We hit a couple of speed bumps, but everything is working out," Franz said. "I'm really excited about it."

Franz said placing second in last year's competition has fueled her excitement for this year.

"Last year the theme was country music and my sorority sang 'Redneck Woman' and 'Here for the Party' by Gretchen Wilson. It was a lot of fun," Franz

said. Although Franz says she wants her sorority to win, she said there is new competition in the form of Phi Mu Alpha, a music fraternity that is competing for the first time this year.

"They're the symphonic fraternity, so we're expecting them to do well," Franz said.

Gary Bowers, the president of Theta Chi fraternity, wouldn't go into specific details, but said his fraternity has something interesting planned for the evening.

"We definitely have something out of the ordinary planned, but if you want to find out what we're up to, you'll have to come out and see," Bowers said.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

EARTH DAY, continued from page 1

Youngstown greener." Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 when U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson pushed the idea of having a single day dedicated to preserve the environment and teach the dangers of pollution.

One thing Kuzma hopes to continue is the constant success of the "Recyclemania" program. Kuzma said that this year's competition fared well.

"YSU came in 8th overall in the grand championship category and in waste minimization we were 5th in the nation," Kuzma said. "We beat out a lot of Big 10 and Ivy League teams in this."

While Kuzma was busy receiving checks, YSU students Mo Lawrence, Katie Papay and Greg Mook did their part in costume. As king and queen of "Litterfree Land," Papay and Mook with "Cubbie the Bear" Lawrence, gave pencils to students. Mook and Papay wore suits made out of recycled issues of The Jambar — complete with crowns of Dr Pepper cardboard boxes.

"It's not just about one day, it's about everyday. It's educating people about what they can do just by bringing it to their attention that they need to do something about the Earth," Papay said.

"I think it's a day of the year where we are environmentally conscious. We should probably take care of it. Plus, this campus is really beautiful and we need this effort to keep it that way," Mook said.

Tables that lined Kilcawley Center included one promoting building houses from natural material. Straw bales, clay and stone adobe among other natural materials form the houses found in predominantly warm weather areas in the United States.

"If you keep them dry, they will last forever," said Shawn Goodman, who presented the houses.

Other tables included one by NASA, with a focus on space debris, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Mahoning County Green Team and the Animal Rights Coalition. Kuzma said he was happy so many people were involved.

"The weather was awesome. I'm glad everyone showed up for the event, it went well and it really ran smoothly," Kuzma said.

Call Steve Lettau at (330) 941-1913.

'Yes Ride' to challenge students' physical ability, ideals

By: Linh Bui
KNIGHT RIDDER / TRIBUNE
INFORMATION SERVICES
(KRT)

On June 1, a group of people will set out on a two-month, cross-country bicycle ride from Seattle to Boston. And they aren't doing it for exercise or adventure; they're doing it to fight global poverty.

A group of college students have created the Yes Ride, a bicycle ride that raises money for developing countries through cyclists, sponsors and donors.

"We wanted to do something massive that could reach a lot of people," said Chris Markl, a doctoral student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who is the project coordinator of the Yes Ride.

"When a school group has a protest or a candlelight vigil, 200 people will show up and say they care about Africa," Markl said. "But if you ask those same people to actually go to Africa or even donate money, you get a totally different response."

Markl said their goal is to have 20 riders complete the whole ride and raise \$200,000 in all. Each rider is responsible for finding sponsors and must raise a minimum of \$4,000 to participate.

Torri Weese had little cycling experience and didn't even own a road bike when she signed up for the

ride. She was drawn to this event because it was more like a challenge.

"It's not a fundraiser you can go to for a few hours," Weese said. "I get to really commit to something for two months. For two months, I can just focus on this ride and the people we're helping."

In addition to working two jobs and going to school, Weese has changed her diet, lifestyle and schedule to train for the event. She is currently contacting foundations with similar goals to raise money for the ride. But she said the hard work would be worth it in the end.

"I hope to make a difference in someone's life," Weese said. "I want to help someone go to school for a year. I want to help a mother give her child a vaccine. Given any opportunity to help the people we're helping, I'd take it in a heartbeat."

Beneficiaries of the mission are organizations that focus on increasing education, reducing extreme poverty, improving healthcare and assisting in HIV and malaria vaccine research.

Chris Hart is another rider. He is an avid biker who found out about the Yes Ride from a sign in his economics classroom.

Hart looks forward to having both a great story and a great sense of accomplishment.

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- ▶ 4/21 Baseball @ Wright State
- ▶ 4/22 Softball @ Detroit
- ▶ 4/22 Tennis @ Horizon League Championships
- ▶ 4/23 Softball @ Detroit

YSU SOFTBALL

Softball recovers for two more wins

The Penguins softball team was able to turn around doubleheader losses to Kent State on Tuesday to defeat Niagara 2-1 and 8-0 on Wednesday.

The wins move them to 13-16 overall and 6-4 in conference play.

Tuesday's wins were very much the outcome of better pitching, with junior Karlie Burnell throwing a five-hitter with four strikeouts in the first game and junior Tricia Hilbish pitching a one-hitter in the second game at McCune Park in Canfield.

Burnell sent the first 12 batters back to the dugout before letting Niagara's Tori Healy score a solo homerun, for the only point scored in the first win Wednesday. In the bottom of the third, back-to-back doubles by Tiffany Patteson and Becky Hibner and a run-scoring single by Jamie Fornal gave the Penguins a 2-0 advantage.

The second game saw Hilbish allow a two-out walk in the top of the first inning, then retire 13 batters straight before giving up just one hit in the sixth inning. It was the only hit Niagara saw during the game.

The Penguins were able to follow up on the success of their first win with an early 3-0 advantage in the first inning of the second game. McKenzie Bedra doubled home Becky Hibner, Jamie Fornal scored on a balk and Shauna Barry singled to center, allowing Bedra to cross home plate.

In the bottom of the fifth, Kristin McDonnell walked and scored on Bedra's second double of the game, putting the 'Guins at 4-0. Four more runs came in the bottom of the sixth, finishing off the game.

After Tuesday's games, coach Christy Cameron addressed the

need for better pitching, answered by her players with Wednesday's wins.

Cameron said Tasha Hess, a freshman and sister to third baseman Lacey Hess, is one of the pitchers she'll rely on in the coming weeks. Hess fanned batter after batter and consistently created groundouts and pop flies before getting rattled in the later innings in Tuesday's first game.

Cameron said consistency is what Hess must strive for to become yet another feared Penguins pitcher.

"Consistency. If she can hit her spots consistently," Cameron said when asked about Hess' bright future.

Cameron said the Penguins couldn't fall behind when playing teams like Kent State and hope to dig themselves out of the hole.

"Against a good team and good pitching, you don't want to play catch up," Cameron said.

For the two game series against Kent, the Flashes out hit YSU 28-13, despite several efforts by the Penguins.

In the second game of Tuesday's doubleheader, the fifth inning saw catcher McKenzie Bedra smash a towering homerun that easily traveled 50 feet over the left field wall and drove in a run. The homerun brought the Penguins within one run at 7-6, but Kent State, who showed flashes of brilliance all day on the offensive side would not be undone.

The Flashes came out in the sixth inning and belted a homerun to extend the lead to 9-7 and then blasted another pitch out of the stadium in the seventh to widen the gap to 12-6.

The Penguins could not muster



Jambar/Katie Libecco

enough plate presence to challenge the red hot flashes — who doubled up the Penguins in hits in the second game, connecting on 18 hits to just nine from the Penguins. For the two game series, the Flashes out hit the Penguins 28-13.

The Penguins will take on Detroit in a Horizon League match-up on Saturday at 1 p.m.

TOP: "Safe!" Sophomore Becky Hibner slides into home during the second game against Niagara on Wednesday. **RIGHT:** Kelli Scheibley swings at a pitch from Niagara Wednesday. The Penguins won both games of the doubleheader, 2-1 and 8-0. They will face Horizon League opponent Detroit on Saturday.



Jambar/Katie Libecco

YSU TENNIS

Tennis closes regular season, heads into playoffs

The Penguins women's tennis team concluded their season Tuesday afternoon defeating Detroit 6-1 earning them their third Horizon League victory in a row.

The Penguins were nearly unstoppable on the day, sweeping the doubles matches and taking five of the six singles pairings.

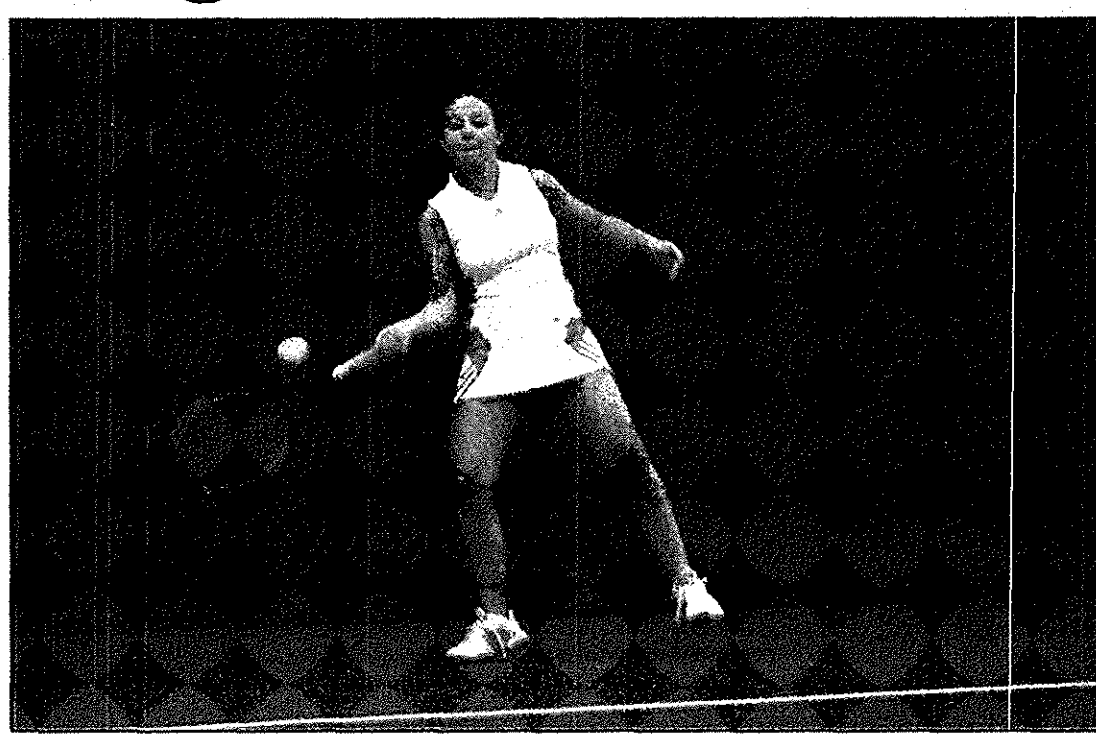
Winning singles matches for the Penguins were Whitney Thomas, Allison Day, Gina Peretti, Michelle Fulekey and Nicole Haralambopolous.

The win for the Penguins brings their season record to 6-8 on the season and a 5-2 league record heading into the Horizon League championship on April 22 in Indianapolis.

More importantly however, the win gives the Penguins a second seed in the league tournament just edging out Cleveland State.

Last season, The Penguins reached the third round of the league tournament before bowing out against UIC 0-4.

The Penguins currently are on their longest winning streak of the season. They had previously beat UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay prior to Tuesday's victory



Jambar/Katie Libecco

Junior Gina Peretti volleys against an opponent during a recent match at the Boardman Tennis Center. Peretti will head into the Horizon League Championships this weekend with eight straight singles wins behind her. Men and the women's tennis will enter playoffs this weekend over Detroit.

Coach Eric Ronan who has assumed some control of the team with head coach Michelle Grim recently being on maternity leave said that entering the league championship on a hot streak is the best possible

scenario for the Penguins.

"Definitely you want to go in the tournament on a high note, not a losing note," Ronan said.

Ronan also said that the team's strength is the Penguin's depth compared to the opponents they have faced this season.

"We are a very deep team, some teams are heavier at the top, but we have six solid players," he said.

As the tournament rolls on this weekend, Ronan along with Grim know that they will have targets on their back, and that is the only way to play.

"I would much rather be going in as a number two seed," Ronan said. "We feel we are one of the top two teams."

The men concluded their regular season with a 5-2 loss to UW-Green Bay on Saturday. Scott Kathary and Ryan Trapp picked up the singles points.

They will also be entering the Horizon League Championships matches in Indianapolis on Saturday. The men went 0-4 in last year's Horizon League Championships.

MYTHOLOGY, continued from page 6

found if he sailed far enough east. "Sail, woman? Columbus goes by dragon, or he doesn't go at all," Columbus exclaimed, showing the Queen his badass dragon tattoo. The Queen was not impressed by the sloppy linework, but she was also horrified by her lack of dragons that no doubt came from cutting the magic budget after all of those alchemists died of lead poisoning.

While Columbus was immensely strong and possessed powers such as nightmare-vision, he was also incredibly stupid because space had no books to read. So the Queen simply had ships painted like dragons, and Columbus totally bought it. He named the three ships Supertramp, Firesplosion, and The Santa Maria, making all of the girlies sail on the last ship so he could make fun of them

for the entire voyage. Unfortunately, this voyage was not all fun and games. Things got really boring. Church boring. So, Columbus did what he usually did when he was bored: he murdered all the sailors, one-by-one.

This killed enough time for Columbus to land in America. Upon reaching the shores, he found sexy indigenous ladies, whom he ravished from shore to shore; this is where Americans came from. Shortly after he was done, he discovered that the country was full of men and also ugly women. He summoned a flock of falcons to carry them away, who listened to him because he had control over all of nature (I should have mentioned that before). These people were dropped off in South America, creating the first South Americans.

As time passed, all the sexy ladies that Columbus had his way with were demanding phone calls and follow-up dates. To cope with his sheer terror of commitment, he started creating major geographical features of America; from the Great Lakes to the hole that New Jersey is in, he did it all. Even after these displays of sheer might were unleashed upon the country, the ladies still demanded Christmas presents for their children, at least in the alcoholic step-dad price range. Unwilling to buckle, Columbus returned to the sky, forming the moon, and becoming the first deadbeat space dad. And this is why we celebrate Columbus Day.

Bob Mackey knows the truth about all of those pentagrams on the American flag. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

PREVIEW

'Golden Apple' is a sweet treat for audiences

By: Katie Libecco
 COPY EDITOR

If you're not a fan, sometimes watching opera is a little rough. But "Golden Apple" is written for modern audiences and is easily enjoyable.

"Golden Apple" has been popular with theatergoers ever since it debuted Off-Broadway. It will be presented as part of the Performing Arts Series at Youngstown State University this weekend.

YSU professor David Vosburgh is directing the show. He said it is an unusual show for YSU, because it is modern. In recent years, the only other modern opera performed was "The Thief," which Vosburgh said is fairly common repertoire.

"Golden Apple" isn't like most operas. "It's a vaudeville story telling the tale of the Iliad and the Odyssey, re-set during the ragtime years - the 1920s," Vosburgh said.

Written by Jerome Moross and John Latouche, "Golden Apple" has very American twists. And for opera fans in the United States there's an added bonus - it's entirely in English.

The show goes something like this: Ulysses (Vaughn Schmidt) comes home from the state of Washington to his wife Penelope (Brianna Kochunas.) He then leaves to find the town floozy, Helen (Roxanne Hauldren) who has been whisked away in a balloon by traveling salesman



Roxanne Hauldren sweet talks Richard Bell in "It's a Lazy Afternoon" from the opera "Golden Apple." The show will perform Thursday through Sunday this weekend in Bthe Ford Theater.

Paris (Richard Bell.)

Vosburgh said one of the highlights of the show is the song, "It's a Lazy Afternoon." Hauldren performs the ballad as Helen, which Vosburgh said was a popular song in the '50s when the show premiered.

Other YSU students performing in the show include Vince Basile, Zarah Bergmann, Bethany Bollinger, Melissa Bookbinder, Randall Brammer, Melissa Cook, Heidi Davis, Nicole Dionisio, Brian Dubiel, Stephen Flask, Randall Huffman, Kari Kleemook,

Philip Kold, Andrew Leah Bernadette Lim, Laura McIntyre, Angela Medaugh, David Munnell, Joseph Nahhas, Max Pivik Kelsey Reardon Erin Richardson, Rachel Rossi Elizabeth Rubino, Brandon Smith, Jessica Speece and Mike Valley.

Richard Bell, of Austintown, is Choreographer and Associate Director. Barbara Luce, of Poland's The Costume Kingdom, is Costume Designer, providing the turn-of-the-century garments. Elizabeth L. Farrow of Ambridge, PA is Makeup/Hair Designer. The cast will be accompanied by a student orchestra, directed by David Keith Stiver.

Vosburgh said the set will be a traditional vaudeville stage, with projections and flying panels throughout the show's 40 scenes. The show appears much like vaudeville, but each act continues the story. With an intermission, "Golden Apple" runs about two hours.

"Golden Apple" will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. There will also be a matinee performance on Sunday at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, faculty/staff, alumni, non-YSU students and groups. Tickets are \$5 for season ticket holders and YSU student. For tickets or more information, call the University Theater Box Office at (330) 941-3105.

MUSIC

'Western Reserve:' Miranda Sound's indie tribute to Ohio

By: Bill Rodgers
 NEWS EDITOR

Billy Peake of the Columbus-based indie rock band Miranda Sound is a Youngstown native. In fact, most of the members of Miranda Sound are from Northeast Ohio, prompting the band to title their new full-length CD "Western Reserve."

The new CD is slated for a national release by Sunken Treasure Records in July. The band will support their new CD locally before setting out in their old Chevy Van (150,000 miles and still going strong) for a national road tour. Peake will be returning to Youngstown to play a show at the Nyabinghi on Friday.

In a phone interview Tuesday, on his way to band practice from his "crappy desk job," Peake talked about Ohio, the indie rock scene and his home town.

Peake said the band decided to move to Columbus to tap into the large scene brought by the university. He said that he was from Youngstown, and the band's bass player is from Cleveland. He said "Western Reserve" drew on a lot of the band's experiences growing up in the Northeast Ohio region.

"The CD talks about what it's like to be from Ohio and what it's like to write in Ohio. It can be a frustrating state, but it's an amazing place. It's like a microcosm of the country. We made this album because we were reflecting on Ohio's geography, sociology and our role as middle Americans," Peake said.

The CD contains one song that speaks (almost painfully) about the youth growing up in the not-so-fair city of Youngstown. "The Lull of Youngstown" talks about the city's talented youth practically fleeing the city. Peake said the song was less of an indictment of the city and more his reaction to a bad night out with some of his old friends who remained in the area.

"I saw that I was a different person while a lot of them had stayed the same," Peake said, pointing out that narrow-mindedness was present in some of the residents.

"That can sound elitist and kind of cocky, but there's a lot of stuff I love about the city. I love the culture there; people have a lot of ethnic pride. And the food! There's nothing like Wedgewood Pizza down here!" Peake said.

In making a CD reflective of

where the band came from, Peake said he noticed that there was a long line of talented Ohio bands that can go unnoticed. He listed the Afghan Whigs and Guided by Voices as Ohio bands who weren't extremely popular, but who influenced a lot of future acts.

"I think modesty is a big factor. Ohio has a lot more honest, less polished, but gutsy and innovative bands. A lot of Ohio bands take pride in that," Peake said.

Peake said his band would seek to tap into the internet to get word of their CD out. Peake plans to hit alternative radio streams and getting the new album in the hands of as many bloggers as possible. He said the current trend in popular music could give his band some commercial appeal.

"I think the success of bands like Modest Mouse and Death Cab for Cutie gives bands like us a little hope. We can still write music our way while also finding some commercial appeal," Peake said.

Peake said he enjoys returning to his old hometown, and not just to chow down on as much Wedgewood Pizza as possible. He said he was especially excited



Image courtesy of Miranda Sound

Pictured above is the cover art from "Western Reserve" Miranda Sound's latest release.

to return to the Nyabinghi. "Not to kiss Greg [Barrett's] ass, but he has a great club. He takes chances on bands; that's how I got there five years ago. It was our first Friday show, and he booked us only on my claim that my mom and little sister would come," Peake said.

The Nyabinghi is located on Salt Springs Road on the West Side of Youngstown. Tickets for Friday's show with local rockers You Are The War That I Want will be about \$5.

Call Bill Rodgers @ (330) 941-1989

COMMENTARY

Creating American mythology and mascots

By: Bob Mackey
 COLUMNIST

When I look at other countries, I can't help but feel that they have so much more culture than America. Mainly because they do. Looking outside our protected borders, it's not uncommon to see creation myths featuring giant monsters rending the earth apart and then making sweet love on the battle-scarred ground, their ooziings creating most of the continents we walk upon without trepidation, and the oceans we swim in without thinking twice. Or, stories about how rivers were formed, mountains were made, and the occasional tale of how the Great Leader can turn stones into live hand grenades. Even England, our oldest friend, likes to pretend that some guy named King Arthur existed and did a bunch of stuff. With swords.

Who does America have as their leading mythological figure? A guy who points and wants us. I don't know about you, but if I wanted to put up with that, I'd go back to prison.

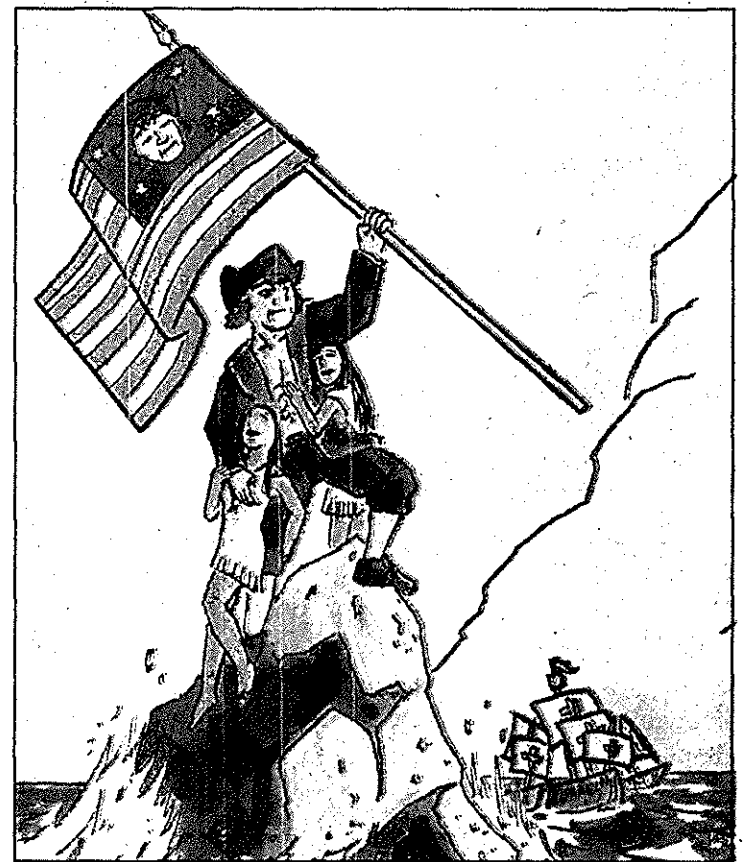
Given the relatively young age of our country, it makes sense that we have no real mythology. The only people in North America that had this might have been the Indians, but finding one to ask proved impossible. When I looked in my history book to see what happened, I found out that they all moved out of America one day without even leaving a note. And this was on the day that Andrew Jackson

was going to give them all free hugs! To commemorate this day, we named a good portion of our sports teams after their tribes. But that didn't solve the problem of American mythology, even if we do have Indians grinning above our baseball fields and butter from the Land of Lakes.

In an effort to give Americans cultural figures outside of advertising mascots, I have assembled our very own creation myth that should be passed down to children. I hope to make this myth mandatory by 2012.

Christopher Columbus, born in 1451, was created by the universe and then fell from space forty years later. He landed in Spain, and did what any man who found himself in Spain would do: leave the country immediately start looking for a girlfriend. On his search - after killing 5000 men out of boredom - he walked to Portugal, and came across Queen Isabella Ferdinand. Columbus demanded that the queen be his girlfriend, to which she replied, "My husband is huge and plays football and he'll be home any minute!" A royal guard whispered in Columbus's ear, "He left to buy opium from the corner store eight months ago and never came back. If you ask me, she's a little..." The guard then made the traditional crazy hand gesture, which Columbus understood even though he was from space.

Enraged by the Queen's decision, Columbus used his space-strength to lift the castle by its very foundation, placing it onto its side. This is where the famous Portuguese Crazy Sideways Castle that you may have seen came from



Art by Nick Daniel

(note: this castle was demolished shortly after the Columbus incident). Terrified by the torso-splitting power that lovemaking with Columbus would likely cause, she informed Chris that the fabled Land of Girlfriends could be

please see MYTHOLOGY, Page 5