

**ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** The Jambar names YSU's top player for 2005-2006. See **PAGE 10**.

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

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WASHINGTON D.C.

## Protestors nationwide seek end of Sudanese genocide

By: Andrea Burton  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The weather a comfortable 70 degrees, the sky a perfect blue — This was the setting for the Save Darfur Rally in Washington, D.C. in front of the Capitol Building, one of 17 rallies nationwide.

A green balloon with black writing that read "Save Darfur" escaped the grasp of a child and floated high above a crowd of more than 10,000 people. Residents of nearly every state held hands, chanted, and prayed together, some holding signs in Hebrew and Arabic, with the same message: "Never Again." They ranged in religious practices and ethnicities. But they all shared a moralistic goal of stopping genocide in Darfur.

Celebrities, faith leaders, human rights activists, politicians, Darfuri refugees and other genocide survivors joined this crowd on April 30 to demand action from the Bush administration, a placing of additional sanctions on Sudan and a push for multinational peacekeeping forces to be sent to Darfur.

Among the rally's more than 20 speakers was Elie Wiesel, Rabbi David Saperstein, Rev. Al Sharpton, rap and fashion mogul Russell Simmons,

former basketball star Manute Bol, who is himself Sudanese, and Academy Award Winner George Clooney.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wiesel spoke from his own suffering in a Nazi concentration camp to address the issue of genocide.

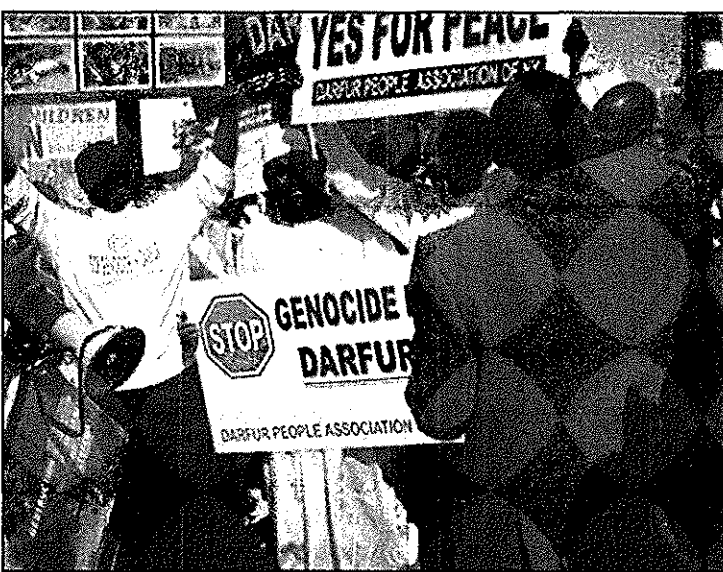
"As a Jew, I'm here because when we needed people to help us nobody came," Wiesel said. "Therefore, we're here."

Since the crisis in Darfur first began, the United States has provided \$1.9 billion to humanitarian and developmental assistance to Sudan and \$630 million to humanitarian assistance to Darfur.

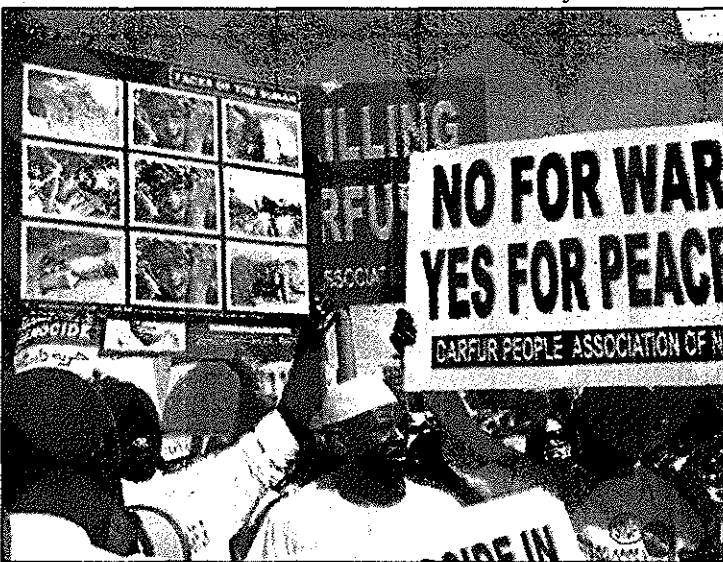
"The world policy on Sudan is failing," Clooney said, who recently traveled with his father to the Chad-Sudan border, where hundreds of thousands of displaced Darfuris live in refugee camps. "If we turn our heads and look away and hope it will all go away, they will, and an entire generation will disappear."

"We didn't stop the Holocaust. We didn't stop Rwanda. But this one, we can stop," his father Nick Clooney, a journalist, said.

Paul Rusesabagina, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient whose story was depicted in the movie "Hotel Rwanda,"



Photos courtesy Andrea Burton



The "Save Darfur" Rally was held in Washington D.C. on Sunday in front of the Capitol building. A few students from YSU attended the rally.

who is credited with saving 1,200 Rwandans from slaughter, spoke later.

"Twelve years ago, a militia was slaughtering innocent civilians in cities and towns in Rwanda. As Rwanda has been aban-

doned, Darfur is also abandoned," Rusesabagina said. "The world is still standing by when genocide is taking place."

"Caring about Darfur and calling it genocide

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YSU

## YSU announces budget cuts

By: Cheryl Thompson  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

To help cope with a \$1.2 million deficit, Youngstown State University Provost Robert Herbert announced several budget reductions in Wednesday's Academic Senate meeting.

The cost-cutting initiatives include the elimination or suspension of several positions and programs.

Herbert maintained that no faculty or staff would lose their jobs because of the cuts.

"In all, the actions amount to more than \$200,000 in expenditures. None of the actions require laying off any employees," Herbert said.

Affected programs and positions include:

- Eliminating the assistant to the provost position, which has been vacant since 2005,

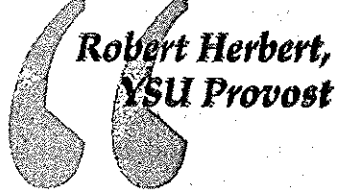
- Replacing the associate director of the Center for International Studies and Programs with a coordinator position,

- Eliminating the Scholar in Residence position, which is funded by the Provost's Office and was used to bring scholars to campus,

- Leaving the Director of the University Outreach unfilled,

- Putting the Freshman

"The reductions that I am announcing today, while not pleasant, will not negatively impact students or the quality of our academic programs."



Reader's Dialogue program on hiatus and

- Eliminating the CATALYST program.

The general fund will also be reworked to finance half of the salaries of positions in the YSU Public Service Institute, and will leave the other half to be funded through external grant money.

Herbert said the decision to cut programs and positions comes after much soul searching and while some might find it distasteful, it is necessary.

"The reductions that I am announcing today, while not pleasant, will not negatively impact students or the quality of our academic programs," Herbert said.

The actions are intended to take effect for the 2007

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## Pie-a-Pi



Jambar/Katie Libecco

Alpha Omega Pi sorority sisters Jessi Burkhart (left) and Christine Franz (right) volunteer to get hit with pies of whipped cream Wednesday afternoon in front of Kilcawley Center. The two-day event benefited Easter Seals by raising about \$100.

YSU

## Grad students teach for first time

This is the third article in a three-part series on those who teach us at YSU.

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Defraying the cost of attending graduate school, earning some money and saving YSU the need to hire more faculty, graduate students at Youngstown State University have the chance to teach basic courses to undergraduate students.

The assistants are broken up into two groups, graduate assistants whose money comes from the school of graduate studies, and teaching assistants, whose funding comes from the departments in which they work.

Peter Kasvinsky, dean of Graduate Studies and Research said that 175 of the school's students were either graduate assistants or

### Graduate student aspires to full-time teaching while teaching at YSU

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Tom Cochran, a graduate student in the Mathematics and Statistics Department, hit the ground running when it came to his teaching career.

After graduating from Youngstown State University in December, Cochran was back this spring as a graduate student. He now teaches elementary algebra to a class of about 30 under-

graduates for \$10,000 and his tuition.

Cochran, who was considering a career teaching mathematics in high school, said he enjoyed his assistantship at YSU.

"I'm pretty sure I want to try to teach high school, but I might pursue my Ph.D. This is a good way to continue my education and I can still teach students," Cochran said.

please see **TEACHING**, Page 5

teaching assistants. Some of the assistants can work as research assistants while others get the chance to teach undergraduates.

All graduate assistants have their tuition paid for, aside from general fees for their classes. Kasvinsky said the students typically

work 20 hours a week while taking their normal graduate courses. He said the assistants teach for the spring and fall semesters.

But pay rates for these graduate students differ by discipline as they do for full-time faculty. Graduate

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### Correction

In a story regarding part-time faculty on Tuesday, the title of Angela Jancius was incorrectly identified. She is actually an assistant professor.

### Cancellation

David Tawei Lee, Taiwan's representative to the U.S. cancelled his visit to Youngstown State University and his talk as part of the Skeggs Lecture Series on

### NEWS BRIEFS

Tuesday has been cancelled.

### Undergraduate commencement

Spring Undergraduate Commencement will take place 10 a.m. May 20 in the Beeghly Physical Education Center. Doors will open at 9 a.m. with parking available in the university lots and parking decks. Diplomas will be available in the Records Office in Jones Hall beginning May 23.

### Cinco de Mayo celebrated at YSU

There will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration breakfast 8 - 9:30 a.m. Friday in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. The breakfast will feature Mexican food, music and dance. The event is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs. For more information, call William Blake at (330) 941-2086.

### Banquet honors YSU retirees

YSU's 25th annual Awards Banquet will be held 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Retiring employees and recipients of the university Heritage Award and Administrative Distinguished Service Awards will be announced.

YSU

## Study abroad program offers YSU students new opportunities

By: TaShelia McCruse  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

"I was robbed my first hour in Spain," psychology major Ashley Anderson said as she described her study abroad experience at the International College of Seville in Seville, Spain.

Anderson was one of seven students who took advantage of the study abroad program at Youngstown State University in the Center for International Studies Program last semester. The program, open to students in all fields of study, provides opportunities to continue their college experience while studying in another country.

But Anderson said being robbed in Spain's subway was mostly because she was naive and unaware, and it wouldn't stop her from doing it all again.

Steven Brown, in the Center for International Studies Program and an English professor, said about 50-60 students each year apply for the studies program. Less than half of those applicants actually study abroad, mostly because of the amount of planning.

"Students don't like planning. It takes organizing and a lot of time and most students are not willing to do that," Brown said.

Brown also said students in the program are

not allowed to work while studying abroad, which stops some from taking advantage of the program.

With a minor in Foreign Affairs and an interest in international travel, Anderson chose to study abroad to improve her Spanish, which she believes will enhance employment opportunities.

Anderson said the process for studying abroad took nearly a year because she could not decide where to go. Brown said Spain, Italy, Australia and the Bahamas are the most popular places where students choose to study.

But for Anderson, the process wasn't just deciding where to go and what to study, she said she also had to get written consent from her teachers and deans.

"I had to get their approval to make sure the classes in Spain would match up with the classes here at YSU," she said.

Anderson said students are required to meet with their advisers, research where they want to go and meet the requirements of their program of choice.

Brown said studying abroad costs about \$6,000 - \$7,000 per semester. Anderson

when she decided to study abroad, she was able to transfer her financial aid from YSU.

"Because I was studying abroad my financial

need was raised," she said.

Brown said because financial aid may not cover all costs, many students end up paying the rest out of pocket or through competitive international scholarships.

According to Anderson, she received a \$1,000 international scholarship and funding. She also received funding through the Protestant Ministry on campus, which she said also helped cut the cost. Other expenses according to Anderson included travel expenses, books and "here-and-there money."

Brown said living arrangements depend on the program.

"Some programs have home-stays with families, some stay in dorms at the institution and some stay in apartments," Brown said.

Anderson said her stay on campus gave her the opportunity to bond with the others in the program.

"There is no comparison [between ICS and YSU] because it's so different," Anderson said.

She said that her experience in the classroom was incomparable to YSU.

"The teachers had a passion to teach. It wasn't like it was just their job or that they needed a paycheck," she said.

Anderson said the classroom setting, which included 50 other study abroad students, was

more personal than YSU.

"It was not as stressful. The teachers had high expectations for the students, and it was more laid back," Anderson said as she described her return to YSU where things were fast-paced and on a tight schedule.

Anderson said she's felt left out since returning home.

"You try to combine your old life with your new life. You're a different person when you come back and sometimes people don't understand that," Anderson said.

Brown said study abroad students go through he calls a "reverse culture shock" when they return.

Anderson said five classes at YSU could not compare to the four months she spent studying in Spain.

"It's a shame that students have no idea that you can do this," Anderson said. "YSU just doesn't promote the program."

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fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2006.

Herbert said that any subsequent cuts would have to be carefully considered, since YSU has undergone several years of gradual budget cutbacks.

"Our goal remains to maintain and even enhance our academic programs and services to students," Herbert said.

YSU President David Sweet said in addition to budget cutbacks, he hoped the university would be able to gain \$1 million of \$30 million in state funds yet to be appropriated.

"This money could go toward filling a \$1 million gap in the scholarship fund," Sweet said.

Aside from the proposed budget reductions, Sweet said the university's best bet for increasing revenue is increasing enrollment.

"With state support shrinking, a mandatory six percent and the proposed tax expenditure limit amendment, enrollment is the one variable the university has control over," Sweet said.

As of now, the Board of Trustees is still debating whether to raise tuition to the state-imposed six-percent limit.

In other Academic Senate business, the body voted in favor of reworking the General Education Requirement system.

The changes are intended to help students graduate in a timely manner by providing them with a

clear path to completing the written, oral and critical thinking intensive courses.

The proposal offers several alternatives to the traditional GER intensive classes including;

Completing a number of assignments completed in a series of classes or through other programs, such as Quest,

Fulfilling one or more of the areas through the course-based path and the others through a program-based alternative, or

Combining program-based assignments with a single intensive course to complete an area.

Academic Senator Gabriel Palmer Fernandez, director of the James Dale Ethics Center, opposed the idea claiming the changes could lead to a watered-down curriculum.

"There maybe some logistical problems with the current GER system, but the solution is not to lower YSU's academic standards," Palmer-Fernandez said.

William Jenkins, the chair of the General Education Committee, supported the plan saying it would help provide students with a clear path toward meeting the requirements without lowering them.

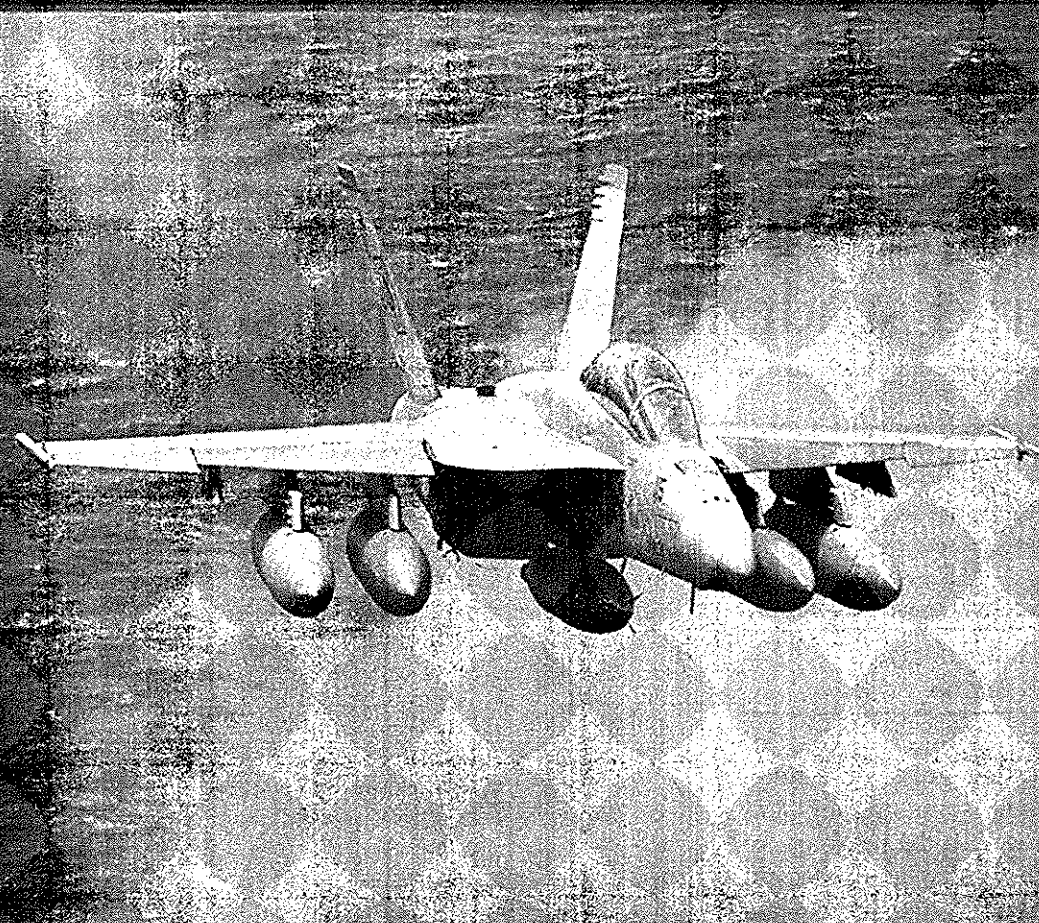
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**Youngstown**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, May 4, 2006

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## OUR SIDE University budget cuts a step in the right direction

There's no question about it. Youngstown State University needs money. Bad.

Records and administrators all indicate a \$1.2 million deficit in YSU's budget.

In a move to help correct the budget shortfall, YSU Provost Robert Herbert announced the elimination of several positions and programs during Wednesday's Academic Senate Meeting.

Among the positions eliminated are the assistant to the provost, the associate director of the Center for International Studies and Programs (to be replaced with a coordinator position), the Scholar in Residence and the director of University Outreach. The Freshman Reader's Dialogue and CATALYST were also announced to be missing from YSU, at least temporarily.

Herbert also said the general fund would be reworked to better finance the YSU Public Service Institute, leaving half to be funded externally.

Additionally, Herbert spoke during Monday's Student Government Association about the elimination of summer courses with fewer than 15 people enrolled for undergraduate classes and 10 for graduate classes.

YSU is finally taking what appear steps in the right direction to help save money.

The Board of Trustees has put off voting on a tuition increase until there is further word on state funding. We hope that when they do decide on their decision, they make a realistic increase going along more so with the rate of inflation at 3 percent than the state limit of 6 percent.

Tuition has risen every year for the past eight years at YSU. Two complete generations of graduates have seen higher and higher prices for their time here.

Whereas they traditionally have cited the fact that YSU remains one of the lowest-priced universities in Ohio, it's time to be realistic about why many YSU students are here — they can't afford another school. If you have to, ask around. It's a pretty common reason for enrollment. Even if the person you ask they can afford any school they want, more often than not "getting a lot of school for the cost" will usually come up in conversation.

We applaud the work that has been done by administration thus far to keep prices down and the quality of academia up. But while Ohio college hopefuls see little chance of the state reversing a continuing decline in higher education funding, schools are going to have to continue thinking creatively to save money.

All options need to be explored. The Student Government Association developed ideas regarding paper usage and even cut back their own budget 2 percent to save the university money. Every abstract and mundane idea needs to be considered before YSU gives up and votes to increase tuition the maximum amount allowed by the state.

We're college students, we do this all the time. While we may not all be finance experts, we understand having to make sacrifices (sometimes unwillingly) to save a little money here and there. We know we'll be better off for it in the long run.

It's time for YSU to start acting like the students it serves.



COMMENTARY

## Crist troubled by Jambar hiring practices

By: Leonard Glenn Crist  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the end of the academic year draws to a close, so does my run as The Jambar's editor in chief. This school year was one filled with so much drama that it felt like the warring campus unions and the university administration were involved in an elaborately staged production of "Heathers."

And it seems like the war hasn't ended just yet. In fact, it's spilled over and student journalists are being caught in the crossfire. Allow me to explain.

As editor in chief during last summer's strike, I took it as my duty to separate the wheat from the chaff — or more accurately, the truth from the bullshit. With copy editor Katie Libecco by my side on The Jambar editorial board, we doled out the criticism wherever it was deserved, regardless of who it was or how powerful they were.

When the unions went on strike, we wrote that it was not good for the campus in a time of ever-increasing enrollment and declining state funding for the unions to ask for pay raises. At the same time, we made it perfectly clear that Sweet and the administration weren't doing anyone any favors with their brash style of negotiations.

Later, when the conversation moved toward who was to blame for the strike, we argued that everyone was to blame and no one individual should be scapegoated, a blow against the Labor Management Review Panel headed by YSU's Provost Robert Herbert. Of course, individuals were scapegoated, in a sad display of mob rule.

And when the issue of another tuition increase reared its ugly annual head, I crunched the numbers and found that YSU had a crapload of extra cash in reserve it could spend, a blow to the administration. YSU's trustees still haven't made a decision on raising tuition.

The editorial board spoke out whenever we thought the best interests of the student body were being ignored by the faculty, staff, administration or even the Student Government Association. To be sure, this is a thankless job, and not one where you easily make friends.

Nonetheless, more than a few people have remarked to me how fair The Jambar was this year.

So it hit The Jambar staff like a ton of bricks last week when it was announced that Katie Libecco, the logical successor to the editor in chief position, was not offered a single position on the paper next year.

Not only was Libecco denied the editor in chief job, which on an objective judgment of journalistic talent in comparison to the other applicants, she deserved, but she was not offered any position on staff at all.

The two other applicants for editor in chief each received jobs at The Jambar next year. Maysoun Abdelrasul, this year's features writer, was named the new editor in chief. Emory Boyle-Scott, a journalism student with no prior Jambar or other newspaper experience, was named news editor, the paper's second highest position.

Editor in chief receives a monetary stipend equivalent to a full university scholarship, which totals more than \$13,000 for fall and spring semester. News editor

receives a monetary stipend equivalent to 80 percent of a full university scholarship. Jambar staff members working in the summer semester receive an additional stipend.

A board known as the Student Publications Committee selects The Jambar staff members each year.

Committee members include:

- Jane Kestner, assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences
- Julia Gergits, an English professor and president of the faculty union
- Greg Gulas, a former Jambar writer and the assistant director of student activities

- Rick George, a former Jambar editor and the associate director at YSU's Center for Human Services Development

- Donna DeBlasio, an associate professor of history

- Lynn Haug, the retail operations manager at Kilcawley Center

- SGA has two student appointees on the board, though the student members almost never attend committee meetings and were not present at the interviews.

This list of voting members might be incomplete, as a formal public records request for information wasn't processed at press time.

Faculty members in the journalism department are invited to sit in on the meetings and offer input, but have no voting power. The next editor in chief also sits in on the meetings, but has no voting power.

When Libecco, who is more than qualified for nearly every Jambar position available, wasn't hired in any capacity whatsoever, we began to ask questions. Why wasn't she chosen editor in chief? And even with that (poor) decision, why wasn't she at least offered some job at the paper?

Libecco wrote a letter to the publications board looking for answers, but few were offered in return.

"The Student Publications Committee has concluded its interviews for Jambar staff positions for next year and selections have been made," wrote Kestner. "While you have not been selected for a position, the committee would like to acknowledge the many contributions you have made to the Jambar. Selection decisions are made by the voting members of the committee taking many things into account including the best interest of the student body and the newspaper and maximizing opportunities for experience for students. The committee has no further information to share with candidates. Please accept our best wishes as you continue your academic career."

While the best interests of The Jambar and the student body is a subjective matter up for debate, "maximizing opportunities for experience" is absolutely not an issue that should apply to Libecco. For one, The Jambar has no term limit policy; two, incoming editor in chief Abdelrasul has been on staff longer than Libecco. The argument simply doesn't fly.

The committee hasn't yet offered up any more information despite several requests. They are meeting this week to decide what information they can divulge, conveniently after our last issue of the semester (and my last issue ever).

The only reason that can come to my mind (and based on comments I've heard) is

that the committee was unhappy with this year's Jambar and Libecco represented the old guard.

Alyssa Lenhoff, The Jambar's faculty adviser and director of YSU's journalism program, went so far as to say this year's paper was the worst in 10 years, a hyperbolic claim with which I wholeheartedly disagree.

If the paper wasn't good this year (though I think it was good and fair), surely the adviser has some role to play here. Lenhoff is so busy with her life (she is the wife of Ohio Attorney General candidate and state Sen. Marc Dann, a mother and a member of the Liberty School Board, in addition to her YSU duties) that she rarely spent time in the office on production nights advising us. If the paper was so bad that Libecco can't even get a reporter's job next year, then why didn't Lenhoff or fall semester adviser Tim Francisco step in after, say, a month of steadily bad papers and do something about it? Lenhoff sent a few critiques of The Jambar to us in e-mail form, but that stopped before long. We were reading them and trying our best to take some of her advice, though we didn't always agree with all of what she said.

Still, if there was a lack of talent on the Jambar, YSU's journalism department only has itself to blame.

This year's Jambar leadership (Libecco, news editor Bill Rodgers and myself) stepped in largely because there were no other applicants, qualified or otherwise. We did everything we could to make a first-rate (and fair and independent) newspaper, given the staff we had.

I was the only applicant last year for editor in chief and Libecco and Rodgers were both originally slated to be assistant design and assistant news editor, respectively. But when a hole appeared in the news and copy editor positions, it was either hire them or hire nobody and not have a Jambar. Libecco and Rodgers stepped up when they were most needed and did their best they could given a difficult situation.

All year long, and especially this semester, Libecco worked very, very hard at writing and copy editing (not an easy task at a student paper where many staff members are still honing their craft, copy editors included.) She regularly put in 40 plus hour workweeks and even took on the role of lead photographer — which was not a part of her job description — simply because it needed to be done.

It seems to me that there isn't a question of whether Libecco was good enough or committed enough to work at The Jambar this year; she obviously and unquestionably was. So if journalistic merit and loyalty to the paper didn't factor in the decision not to hire Libecco, the only other option is that the committee just didn't like her. But that shouldn't be a reason in a professional/university hiring process, should it?

So why didn't the committee like Libecco? Could it have had anything to do with our harsh (but measured and deserved) editorial criticisms throughout the year? It's doubtful anyone would admit to retribution or censorship, but it's certainly a possibility.

please see **HIRING**, Page 4

# Editorial & Opinion

COMMENTARY

## Rodgers: My beloved college career ends now

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

If any one thing has prepared me for the real world, it was the rewarding if at times nerve-racking experience of putting this paper together twice a week.

As I leave Youngstown State University and head out for... somewhere, I can only hope that I made good use of my time here. I enjoyed being a part of this paper that informs, intrigues, entertains and infuriates many of you fine people.

Despite the drama, wild accusations and stressful hiring period, I'm sure next year's staff will be successful and I wish them luck.

As I sit here typing this, listening to the ambient noise of the office, I realize how much I'll miss this place. This stuffy basement office has been my home for the last two years. I remember sleeping down here the night after the faculty union went on strike. I woke up to a steaming hot mug of nuked coffee and realized I was about to cover one of the stormiest years in YSU's recent history.

It was tense, but it was exciting. Not many YSU students receive anonymous packages in the mail with "THE ADMINISTRATION IS LYING" scrawled across the



Jambar/Katie Libecco

front of the newspaper in red marker. Now that the dust has begun to settle, I realize that no other reporting job could have toughened me up the way this one did. I can only hope I'm able to keep this momentum up because nothing short of Jones Hall collapsing into a sinkhole could have created a more effective learning environment

for a young journalist.

Before I load up my few belongings and seek my (mis-?) fortune, there are a few people and places I'd like to thank.

To My Co-Workers: You put up with my horrible music and only complained slightly when I turned in articles on such exciting and harrowing topics as SGA cleaning up

cigarette butts on campus. You're all extremely talented individuals and I wish you all luck.

To My Professors: If I didn't have you to inspire me, I'd still be a - brr... - chemistry major. You gave me a brass ring to strive for and I can only hope my work will make a difference in the community. If it does, I have you to thank.

To Cedars: You sold one-dollar Straub's and had some of the best local alternative music I've ever heard. I hope you hang around for years to come if only to be a place of refuge from bars that are packed with nine million freshmen wearing popped collar shirts and Inuit boots.

To Everyone Who Hung Up On Me When I said I was from The Jambar: Thank you. It gave my job that feeling of controversy you just can't find in another college job. At the very least it was good for a laugh.

Despite the bad rap this town gets, I really love Youngstown, Yompton, the Yo. I wish the town, the university and the students luck and prosperity in the future. I hope this town is here for years and years after I'm gone, if only to freak out all of the normals in Boardman.

Blah. It's 10 p.m. and I'm tired. My beloved college career ends now.

COMMENTARY

## Smolkovich: Stay classy Youngstown

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

Well, it is finally over.

After two years acting as sports writer for The Jambar — I emphasize acting — my time has come to an end. For what it's worth, it was fun I guess. It was awful at times as well.

To those who will take the reigns next year, I wish you good luck and a sane mind, because you will definitely need it.

While The Jambar has been a tremendous learning experience that will prove to be invaluable (hopefully) in the years to come, it has proved to be a classic hate/love experience.

So for my own sanity and to prepare those who follow, here are the things to enjoy:

- Free food at football and basketball games. The trick is to take advantage of the situation, but not seem greedy.

- Getting the opportunity to meet athletes from nearly every walk of life and background, and at times getting to tell their stories.

- Making friends at The Jambar, in hopes that one day when they are successful I can mooch off of their success. Be prepared former staffers, because I will call for a high level position.

While those things are pleasant and bring a tear to my eye, there are conversely those things that made me want to publish articles with nothing but expletives. They



Jambar/Katie Libecco

are as follows:

- Deadlines. Awful things they are. There is nothing worse than running back to the office following a late ending basketball game to tippity-type your night away.

- Awkward office arguments. When

your editors get into the inevitable squabble, it is very similar to when your parents fight, except with more gunshots and whiskey.

- Loss of free time. As a sports writer, most of my work happened on weekends.

While my friends were out popping and locking, showing their grillz, and generally causing a ruckus, I was looking over stats and scoring summaries!

It would be in bad taste not to mention some people who I really should thank for making my time here at The Jambar a worthwhile experience.

- To Trevor Parks, Jamie Hall, John Vogel, Ron Strollo and the entire athletic department — I appreciate everything you have done for me, from handling my interview requests to answering obscure history questions regarding Penguins athletics, I appreciate it.

- To the coaches who I sometimes hounded endlessly for interviews. I say thanks for taking time out from your day to answer my sometimes ridiculous questions.

- To any athlete I ever interviewed, thanks. I appreciate you letting me write your stories.

- Jambar Staff. Well, as inexperienced as we were, I don't think it turned out nearly as awful as it was made to seem. I am glad I was able to spend this time in the office with all of you.

Well it has been a lot of fun, but it is about time I clean out my desk and throw some of this garbage away. It has been a blast getting to write for this newspaper and getting to see the things I have seen. To the next sports editor, good luck and enjoy your time here.

STAY CLASSY, Youngstown. NEWS TEAM ASSSSSEMBLE!!!!

**HIRING**, continued from page 3

Adding credence to that theory is the fact that the Student Publications Committee has at least two conflicts of interests, in addition to the problem of the two student representatives who never show up.

- Julia Gergits, the head of the faculty union that we have strongly criticized this year, is a voting member.

- Rick George, who sent me a vulgar e-mail earlier this year demanding a certain kind of coverage biased against the administration, which I believed was inappropriate given his role as public employee who has control over who gets hired and fired at The Jambar, is also a voting member. In the e-mail, George wrote, "[YSU President David] Sweet is using this public university as his own private business to hook up his friends and this has to stop!!!! [...] I have been here since 1987 and Sweet is making a mockery of this institute of higher

learning. [...] Now get off your ass and use your fucking position to make a difference."

On the other hand, journalism faculty like Tim Francisco and Daniel Sturm don't have a vote, though they might be the best to decide who is a talented reporter and who isn't.

As the current editor in chief, I am in a unique position to gauge the talents of reporters, as I edit every single story they write for the Jambar. It is my firm belief that Katie Libecco was the best person for the job. Most of YSU's journalism faculty would probably agree, and several students, faculty members, administrators and a local journalist — all quite familiar with The Jambar — expressed shock at hearing the news that Libecco was not accepted for anything.

This may all seem like sour grapes, but in the face of censorship, one must speak out while one still has the opportunity. The American Society of Newspaper Editors writes in their code of ethics

that a newspaper "should report matters regarding itself or its personnel with the same vigor and candor as it would other institutions or individuals." To be sure, The Jambar has reported on YSU's many hiring problems over the years and a suspicious case that hits close to home should be no different.

I will not be returning to The Jambar next year for a number of reasons. However, I wish the next staff the best of luck and hope they do a good, independent and fair job. Maysoun Abdelrasul is a good reporter and I wish her no ill will. Unfortunately, my suspicion is that without extensive faculty advisement (which would sap the independence of the "student voice of Youngstown State University"), the inexperienced staff may not fare so well.

All of this drama has left a bad taste in several of our mouths; Bill Rodgers is doubting his abilities as a reporter, Katie Libecco is considering leaving the university and I've become disillusioned toward mem-

bers of the student publications committee whom I once respected.

But despite all of this, I believe The Jambar's coverage of Youngstown State University this year far surpassed that of The Vindicator or the Warren Tribune-Chronicle, and those papers employ professional journalists. We broke a number of news stories this year that those daily papers didn't have and we offered in-depth coverage not available anywhere else.

There are seriously different viewpoints as to what kind of journalism the twice-weekly Jambar should practice (a daily style with breaking news [like the Vindicator], a "gotcha" investigative style that emphasizes scandal and hyperbole over substance [which is what I feel Lenhoff tends to promote], or a mix of a weekly magazine format with a daily news-style emphasis when possible; I chose the latter during my term as editor in chief.)

Regardless of what style is chosen, this decision should be made by the students, not the committee

or journalism faculty members. And that decision should be respected and not held against future Jambar candidates. Otherwise, the student paper ceases to be "The student voice of Youngstown State University" as our masthead states, but the voice of the Student Publications Committee.

But there's more to this than someone not getting a job. It sends messages to the staff of The Jambar for years to come. For those who knew Libecco and the amount of work she put in, this says that making sacrifices for the paper will go unnoticed and get you nowhere. It also has a far-reaching effect that the staff should stay in line and side with those who hire them — this chilling effect could lead to hushing editorial opinions and a dangerous slant in news coverage.

And so, to a troubled university I hope will learn from its mistakes, I offer a closing to my raucous year as editor in chief: Goodnight and good fucking luck.

**SUDAN, continued from page 1**

seems to be enough for some of the Darfur activists and elements of the administration," said John Prendergast, an Africa expert with the International Crisis Group in Washington, which studies and consults on security issues. "But I have to harshly disagree with the assertions that we've done all we can, because we haven't."

At the same time that Sharpton began his speech, a group of Darfuri refugees began to chant alongside the stage. They held posters of their ravaged villages and dead neighbors.

Younis Tagelalla, 40, is a Darfuri refugee currently residing in New York, he said, "we are grateful to all the different religions, colors, and people who are here to support us and stop genocide." Tagelalla arrived in D.C. early Sunday morning with four buses of New Yorkers and other Sudanese Refugees.

"Sudan's government offered Sunday to accept a potentially historic Darfur peace agreement, but two of Darfur's three main rebel groups raised last-minute objections that left the negotiations mired in confusion as a midnight deadline passed. Mediators agreed to extend the talks for 48 hours at the request of the United States," The New York Times reported.

It is unknown whether Monday's extension in the negotiations, overseen by the African Union at talks in Abuja, Nigeria, made it more or less likely that a deal will be reached. The talks are the most intensive yet in an effort to end the strife in Darfur.

"The days after the rally are the most important days," said Rabbi David Saperstein, who directs Reform's Religious Action Center.

In an attempt to father peace negotiations President Bush telephoned President Omar al-Bashir on Monday night and discussed "the question of Darfur and the importance of bringing peace." Negotiators for the Darfur Rebels and the Sudanese Government were trying to meet a Tuesday midnight deadline for their peace

talks to end the three-year conflict, which has caused an estimated 400,000 to dead and displaced 2 million others.

Warfare erupted in early 2003 when the allied rebel groups the Sudan Liberation/Movement and Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, attacked military installations. This followed the peace agreements brokered by the US to end the 20-year war in the South of Sudan which afforded government positions and oil revenues to the rebels in the south. It was the rebels in Darfur, seeking an end to the regions chronic political and economic mistreatment, who also armed themselves to protect their communities against a 20-year campaign by government sponsored militias recruited among groups of Arab extraction in Darfur and Chad. "Janjaweed" militias receive government support to clear civilians from areas considered disloyal to the Sudanese government.

Thomas Duffy, 20, a YSU student who attended the rally said the speakers were "basically preaching to the choir. Hopefully they got a lot of press coverage, but there were anti-war rallies going on the same day in different cities."

"I will casually bring it up with my friends to see if they know about the situation, and try to teach more people about it," Duffy added.

Keith Lepak, international relations associate professor, explained that the situation in Darfur is "one of those situations in international relations where the moral issue is clear... but when it comes to interstate politics and diplomacy, usually the weakness is interstate actors."

"What is happening in Darfur is a 'crime against humanity.' The name stems from a notion that the act is so heinous that it diminishes humanity as a whole," said Helene Sinnreich, Ph.D., program director of Judaic and Holocaust Studies at YSU.

Sinnreich will teach History 4860 this fall, which will focus on genocide in the modern world.

**TEACHING, continued from page 1**



**COCHRAN**

Cochran lectures three days a week for his class and instructs two math labs a week. He also keeps office hours and tutors students. He said he works about 20 hours a week while taking nine credit hours of graduate courses. However, he said balancing work and school hasn't been a problem.

"It's easier now than when I was an undergrad. I was taking 20 credit hours and had a job. This gives me a lot more time to focus on my school work,"

Cochran said.

He said he wasn't entirely new to teaching. Cochran worked as a student teacher at some area high schools.

"I'm used to being up in front of people. This isn't too big of a change," he said.

While not new to teaching, Cochran noticed he was beginning to empathize with some of the pet peeves his teachers had.

"I noticed I complained about some things my

teachers used to. Some of the students in my class don't pay attention or talk through class, or I'll walk through the hallway 10 minutes after class and see one of my students who didn't show up that day," Cochran said.

He said he would apply to some high school teaching positions while he was finishing his master's degree. He said he planned to teach again next year.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**STUDENT, continued from page 1**

assistants in science and engineering related fields earn stipends of \$10,000 a year while graduate students in other fields earn \$7,500, Kasvinsky said.

The higher-paid assistants work in fields such as biology, engineering and math while the lower-paid assistants typically work in fields such as English or history, Kasvinsky said.

Mark Womble, associate professor in biology and a coordinator of the department's graduate students, said the higher rate for science assistants helped YSU compete with other universities for graduate students.

"We're at a severe disadvantage for recruiting in science," Womble said.

Womble said other universities in Ohio offered their graduate assistants more money. Karen Caldwell, coordinator of financial aid in the graduate school in Akron, said that Akron's graduate assistants could earn up to \$16,000.

The pay gap doesn't bother English graduate student Alisa Balestra. Balestra teaches introductory writing courses.

"They [the science students] have to set up the labs and supervise everything. It takes an exorbitant

amount of work. It even's out," Balestra said.

**Differences in Teaching Duties**

Kasvinsky said the graduate students teach introductory courses such as elementary algebra or writing while other students can work as lower-level lab instructors. These graduate students get their first taste of lecturing under the supervision of full-time faculty while departments are able to fill introductory courses without hiring part-time faculty.

Balestra is entering her third semester of teaching in the English Department. Her teaching duties include grading papers, lecturing and deciding on a syllabus for class.

She said she learned her first major lesson about teaching within a week.

"A prototype for a class doesn't exist. You have to adjust the class to your students' ability. In some cases your expectations have to come down," Balestra said.

There is a prototype course for some of the math graduate students, however. Annette Burden, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, oversees graduate teaching of elementary algebra. She said she standardized the course over a Web site.

Graduate students teaching the course have to lecture and tutor students outside of class. Grading, homework and testing are done through the Web site.

Womble said that the biology graduate students teach more than 60 lab sections, most of which are low-level, introductory labs. He said graduate students are responsible for teaching incoming students proper laboratory techniques.

"Labs are hands-on experiences for students. [The assistants] spend time working with students on a more individual basis... They teach proper technique and scientific process," Womble said.

**Benefits for YSU and the Graduate Students**

Burden said that the introductory math courses have large numbers of undergraduates.

She said the Department of Mathematics and Statistics was able to offer more sections of the course because of the graduate students. Otherwise, Burden said they would have to hire part-time faculty to fill the sections. She said approximately two-thirds of the elementary algebra sections were filled by graduate students.

"There's no way we

could come up with that many part-time faculty. The university is trying to cut down on the amount of [part-time faculty] they hire anyway," Burden said.

In addition to the tuition reimbursement and stipend, Burden said the departments mentor the students as they start their first experience teaching.

"We mentor the students closely. We teach them how to teach," Burden said.

Kasvinsky said the teaching experience could also help out graduate students who went after a career outside of academia.

"The experience is a huge assistance in the interview process. The [graduate students] communicate better after they're in front of a group answering questions. It's a very important element of selling yourself as an employee," Kasvinsky said.

Kasvinsky said he had no data on how many graduate teachers seek teaching careers compared to other professions. He said he was planning to conduct a survey to find out.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**MACKEY, continued from page 9**

shovel, and a Coke sponsored canary in case you fall into any of the abandoned coal mines which snake out underneath YSU. You may die cold and alone, but at least you'll have my humorous ponderings about campus parking to keep you company!

In closing, I was going to give a farewell to Leonard "Lenny" Crist and Katie "Katie" Libecco, but disposing of these two heavy black garbage bags in the Mahoning River as I was told to do this morning really got me thinking. This entire year, they were misleading me! Me, who knew nothing of newspapers, drawn into their vast anti-Coke conspiracy! As the title of the Green Day song that plays at the funerals of dead high school kids says, "Good Riddance."

By the way, if you two are reading this, do you have any idea how to get out of this large steel cage? Wait, I guess you wouldn't.

Coca-Cola Presents: Bob Mackey with Retsyn has fewer calories than Bob Mackey Classic. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST JAMBAR OF THE SEMESTER, BUT A SUMMER ISSUE WILL BE PRODUCED ONCE A WEEK AND REGULAR CIRCULATION WILL CONTINUE AGAIN IN THE FALL...SEE YOU THAN.**

**Final Examination Schedule  
Spring Semester 2006**

Class	Final Exam Day Time	Class	Final Exam Day Time
Monday or Wednesday		Tuesday or Thursday	
0800 MAY 8	Monday 0800-1000	0800 MAY 11	Thursday 0800-1000
0900 MAY 10	Wednesday 0800-1000	0900 MAY 11	Thursday 1030-1230
1000 MAY 12	Friday 0800-1000	1000 MAY 9	Tuesday 0800-1000
1100 MAY 8	Monday 1030-1230	1100 MAY 9	Tuesday 1030-1230
1200 MAY 10	Wednesday 1030-1230	1200 MAY 11	Thursday 1300-1500
1300 MAY 12	Friday 1030-1230	1300 MAY 11	Thursday 1515-1715
1400 MAY 8	Monday 1300-1500	1400 MAY 9	Tuesday 1300-1500
1500 MAY 10	Wednesday 1300-1500	1500 MAY 9	Tuesday 1515-1715
1710 MAY 8	Monday 1730-1930	1710 MAY 11	Thursday 1730-1930
1835 MAY 10	Wednesday 1800-2000	1835 MAY 9	Tuesday 1800-2000
2005 MAY 8	Monday 2000-2200	2005 MAY 11	Thursday 2000-2200

**Tuesday/Thursday classes meeting at 0930 and 1230 will have their exams at the times listed for the next later meeting time. (T 0930 will use the same time a T 1000 that will make the exam on Tuesday 0800-1000. T 1230 class will use T 1300 that will make the exam on Thursday 1515-1715.)**

**Notes: Final examinations are not to be given before the final examination period. Examinations must be held at the hour scheduled because the classroom may not be available at other times.**

**If a student has three or more examinations on one day, he/she should attempt to re-schedule one (or more) of those examinations on another day when the instructor has an examination. Permission for taking a final examination at any time other than the scheduled time must be arranged with the instructor of the class involved.**

**The final examination time is determined by the first hour of the first day of the week that the course is scheduled. For example, a course meeting MTWF 0900-0950, will use Monday 0900.**

**Day: Courses that meet one day a week (but not evening) and one-hour courses and seminars that require a final exam will use Friday/1515-1715.**

**Evening: Classes beginning at non-standard time (i.e., other than the above) will use the above table for the first time shown FOLLOWING their starting time (i.e., 1600 will use 1710 exam time 1800 will use 1835)**

**Classes scheduled one evening a week will meet on the day the class is scheduled, at the exam starting time listed above.**

**Friday Evening, Saturday and Sunday classes will begin at their regular hours on that day for final exam.**

YSU

# YSU creates program to reduce stress in students

By: Danielle Dobozi and Adrienne Sabo  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTORS

With the end of another semester fast approaching, students at Youngstown State University have several outlets for stress relief before and during finals week.

The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center is sponsoring the second Exam Jam 3-8 p.m. Monday.

Events include yoga and

tai chi classes, a mini-spa, massages and reflexology, intramural challenges, drunken goggle races, rock climbing and a Dance Dance Revolution competition.

The mini spa, held in the women's locker room, will include manicures and pedicures. The stress-free zone, in the lobby of the center, will offer students smoothies and snacks, coloring, silly putty, a Lego competition and a stress management booth.

"Students responded positively to the first Exam Jam, and we're expecting a good turnout since we've added more events," said Joy Polkabra Byers, assistant director of programs and events at the rec center.

"It's important to take time out your busy schedule for yourself. It helps me to cope with the pressures of finals week," sophomore Erin Leippy said.

For each event students participate in, they will receive one ticket. Tickets

will be drawn every half hour for prizes such as T-shirts, guest passes and water bottles. At the end of the evening, one ticket will be drawn for an iPod Nano.

"The Exam Jam was scheduled for the beginning of finals because it seems like the time when students would need something like this the most and it is an opportunity for students to unwind during finals week," Byers said.

Nicole Widomski, a junior marketing manage-

ment major agreed.

"Finals weeks is always the most stressful part of the semester because everyone is rushing to get that last project or presentation done on time," Widomski said.

The YSU Department of Counseling is sponsoring Professional Counselors' Awareness Week May 1-5 across campus. Events for the week include massages, yoga and four seminars promoting mental health and wellness.

Scott Thompson, a student at The Youngstown College of Massotherapy, said there are many benefits from getting a massage.

"Massages increase circulation and blood flow to the

brain, help to relieve stress, and also to release endorphins," Thompson said.

Thompson along with Doug Shodd, the owner and massage instructor at The Youngstown College of Massotherapy, took part in The Professional Counselors' Awareness Week on Tuesday by giving free five-minute massages in Kilcawley Center.

Leippy and Widomski agreed that events like these help decrease some of the stress associated with finals, but said that the only way to really avoid the stress is planning ahead and not waiting till the last minute to get things done.

## Classified

### Help Wanted

Summer Employment: College Pro Painters is now hiring Painters to work outdoors with other students. Earn \$3,000 to \$5,000. Advancement opportunities! 1.888.277.9787 [www.collegepro.com](http://www.collegepro.com).

Experienced staff needed to work in MR/DD homes in Mahoning County. Fax or mail resume to Threshold Residential Services, P.O. Box 466, East Palestine, OH 44413 fax: 330-426-4165.

Manager Trainee: starting \$9+. Offering: 45-hour work weeks, insurance, retirement and paid vacation. Applicants must be honest, energetic, dedicated and friendly. Experience helpful. Please mail or fax resume to: Pizza Works, 55 Oak Knoll Dr., Hubbard, Ohio 44425, Fax: 330-534-5729 or e-mail [pizalead@aol.com](mailto:pizalead@aol.com).

Bartenders wanted! Up to \$300 a day, no experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520 ext. 287.

Help wanted: Chefs, kitchen help and servers. Apply in person at DeVarco's restaurant, Rt. 616 Coitsville.

The Georgetown is hiring bussers, servers and cafe workers. Apply in person: 5945 South Avenue, Boardman. Hours: Tuesday 9-7, Wednesday Friday 9-4:30, Saturday 9-12.

DO YOU WANT THE BEST SUMMER JOB? Work at Tower City Amphitheater. Tower City Amphitheater and Nautica Pavilion are now accepting applications for numerous seasonal, part-time positions. Visit [www.towercityamphitheater.com](http://www.towercityamphitheater.com) or call 440-247-2722 for more information.

### Housing

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One and two bedroom apartments. All utilities paid. Includes cable and high speed internet, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer and microwave. Call 330-219-4223.

GREAT PLACE TO LIVE! 3-4 bedroom townhomes with attached garages. Quiet neighborhood, 10 minutes from campus. \$195-\$225/person/month. 1-2 bedroom apartments also available. 330-759-9478.

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1-4 bedroom apartments and houses. Five blocks from YSU, includes stove and refrigerator. 330-743-7111.

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utilities, call 330-533-4148, cell: 330-565-4158.

Walk to campus - 3,4 and 5 bedroom homes. Appliances included. Newly painted interior. Price reduction June and July. 330-506-5684.

### Miscellaneous

Entering the workforce? Only 60% of private full-time workers have employer-sponsored health insurance. Get covered now - email Dennis Thompson at [denthompson@global.net](mailto:denthompson@global.net) or toll-free 866-837-0837.

Need a ride for books going to California, gas money. 330-872-7592 after 8 p.m.

Ginny's Bellydance Boudoir. Ladies! Recruit 3 friends for May - June registration and your next six weeks are FREE! We want your belly now! [www.ginnysbellydanceboudoir.com](http://www.ginnysbellydanceboudoir.com) or [inthewood501@yahoo.com](mailto:inthewood501@yahoo.com). 330-507-2326.

## HELP WANTED!

### Summer • Fall Kilcawley Center Student Jobs

Visit [www.kc.ysu.edu](http://www.kc.ysu.edu) for details on student employment and position descriptions in Kilcawley Center. Stop in the Kilcawley Staff office for an application. You must be in good standing to apply. Open positions are not known at this time. Applications will be kept on file through October 1st.

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

## FINALS WEEK

### Pancake Study Break

Tuesday, May 9 & Wednesday, May 10  
11 PM—12 MIDNIGHT

The Newman Center,  
254 Madison Avenue  
(Across from Lyden House)  
CO-SPONSORED BY STUDENT GOV'T

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

FOUND: Keys, cell phones, hats, gloves, books, bags, etc. The campus LOST AND FOUND is located at YSU Info on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

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

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Dr. Tammy King, 330/841-3279, [taking@ysu.edu](mailto:taking@ysu.edu)  
or visit the YSU Criminal Justice Office, Cushman Hall 2nd floor.  
<http://urban.csuohio.edu>

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STUDENT LOANS

# Student loans should be merged soon, experts say

By: Pamela Yip  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS  
(KRT)

DALLAS — Around this time of the year, anxious high school students find out whether they've been accepted by the college of their choice. For their parents, there's the added anxiety of how to pay for that college education.

If you've got college loans, the magic date is July 1 when the interest rates are set to rise significantly. Experts advise students and parents to consolidate their loans before then to lock in the current low rates.

"The era of historically low interest rates on student loans has ended, and families are extremely unlikely to see rates this low ever again," says Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of FinAid.org, a college-financing information Web site.

The variable interest rate on existing federal student loans will be recalculated by the U.S. Department of Education on May 30, and the new rates will go into effect on July 1.

Mark Brenner, vice chairman of College Loan Corp., a student loan lender, says the hike will be the "biggest increase in the history of the (student loan) program."

Rates are expected to rise at least 1.5 percentage points "and maybe as much as 2 percentage points," says Pat Scherschel, vice president of loan consolidation for Sallie Mae, the largest college-loan finance company.

In addition, interest rates on new loans issued after July 1 will have substantially higher fixed rates instead of variable rates.

The rates on the cheapest money students can borrow — subsidized Stafford loans — will jump to a 6.8 percent fixed rate on July 1 from variable rates that currently are as low as 4.7 percent.

Rates for the Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, or PLUS loans, will rise to a fixed 8.5 percent from the current 6.1 percent.

Parents or students "must get their consolidation application in by June 30," Scherschel says. "The penalty in being one day late in your paperwork is to pay potentially thousands of dollars more," she says.

Generally, it's best to consolidate your loans at least a

month before the deadline to give lenders time to process the paperwork, Kantrowitz says.

The average student with \$20,500 in subsidized Stafford loans can save almost \$3,000 in interest payments over the life of the loan by locking in a current repayment rate of 4.5 percent instead of letting the rate reset at the projected rate of 6.99 percent, according to College Loan.

Parents with PLUS loans can consolidate existing loans to lock in the current rate of 6.1 percent vs. a projected rate of 7.79 percent.

Loan consolidation combines several student or parent loans into one bigger loan from a single lender, which is then used to pay off the balances on the other loans. Consolidation loans often reduce the size of the monthly payment by extending the term of the loan beyond the standard 10-year repayment plan.

Depending on the loan amount, the term can be extended from 12 to 30 years. The reduced monthly payment may make the loan easier to repay for some borrowers. However, by extending the term, the amount of interest paid is increased.

Kantrowitz says it's "a common misconception" that student loans can be consolidated only once in a lifetime.

"Borrowers can consolidate multiple times, so long as each new consolidation loan includes at least one unconsolidated loan," he says.

That's what Dallas attorney Michael Collins did.

He's consolidated his PLUS loans three times for his three children. Compared with more than 6 percent for each loan, his consolidated interest rate is now 4.875 percent.

"I can't match that rate anywhere else," Collins says.

He advised other parents to consider a PLUS loan.

"Every parent should look into the PLUS loan seriously because it does eliminate the financial strife when they're going through college age," Collins says. "By taking a PLUS loan and having the expenses of college taken care of, you can concentrate on helping your child be a success in college."

There are other benefits to loan consolidation: You have a single monthly payment, as opposed to

multiple payments for multiple loans.

It raises your credit score because it shows that you've paid off all your existing student loans, which reduces the number of loans you owe, and shows you successfully paid off a series of debts.

The first step in consolidating is to contact your lender. You will need to provide details of each student loan you wish to consolidate.

The new consolidation loan will be opened in your name for the exact amount you owe. The new loan's proceeds are then used to pay off each holder of your existing loans.

The new single loan features a fixed interest rate calculated as the weighted average of the rates of the loans consolidated, adjusted up to the nearest 1/8 percent and capped at 8.25 percent.

Repayment on a consolidation loan begins within 60 days of disbursement, unless the borrower qualifies for a deferment or forbearance.

A deferment allows a borrower to postpone repaying the loan for a specified period. Most federal loan programs allow students to defer their loans while they are in school at least half time.

If you have a subsidized loan, the federal government pays the interest charges during the deferment period. If you have an unsubsidized loan, you are responsible for the interest that accrues.

Forbearance can be an option for borrowers with temporary financial difficulty.

A forbearance allows a borrower to suspend or reduce payments under certain circumstances and for specified periods.

Forbearances are granted at the lender's discretion. You can't receive a forbearance if your loan is in default. During a forbearance, the borrower must continue paying the interest charges, even on subsidized loans.

Brenner, of College Loan, has one final piece of advice for parents and students anxious over paying for college.

"The one thing I would remind families of is to stay calm," he says. "There are lots of different ways for that family to pay for the education."

HEALTH

# Mumps virus spreads easily at colleges

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

Until recently, few college students even knew what mumps was. But thanks to the largest mumps outbreak in more than two decades taking place now in the Midwest, they have become acutely aware.

College students are easy targets for the mumps virus, which is extremely contagious and commonly spread through sneezing and coughing. Many aspects of college life, from the close living quarters in dorms to constantly sharing drinks at bars, make college students highly susceptible to mumps.

And according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of mumps cases are occurring among people between 18 and 25 years old, including many who are vaccinated and on college campuses.

There are some precautions students can take so they don't catch the virus.

"Be sure to have two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine," said Jane Seward, deputy director for the division of viral diseases for CDC. "And be aware if there are any mumps cases, especially in your dormitories, to stay away from them."

Students must also be careful about interacting with people who don't look sick, according to Children's Hospital Boston. Some carriers of the disease show no signs or symptoms of having mumps, but are still contagious.

The outbreak started in Iowa and Seward said the first case of mumps in Iowa happened on a college campus. As of April 29, there were nearly 1,000 confirmed or probable cases reported in the state.

Several dozen students at Loras College, a Catholic school in Dubuque, Iowa, have had mumps. When the school's track and field team went to a meet at Washington University in St. Louis, they were actually sent back for fear of spreading the virus.

Amanda Maxey, a freshman at Loras College, was sent home because she had a sore throat and swollen glands, two signs of mumps, though later it was determined she did not have the virus.

"Basically, our college is sending anyone home who shows signs of the mumps. I wasn't very happy because I had missed a lot of classes," Maxey said. "I don't think that sending the students home is the correct way of addressing the situation. I think this could make things

worse and spread the outbreak to other towns that wouldn't normally have it."

It seems Maxey was right. The virus has spread to eight neighboring states in the Midwest. Kansas is one of those states, and as of April 27 had close to 300 confirmed and probable cases reported.

But the attitude about the virus at the University of Kansas is different than at Loras.

"We (KU students) have the mumps, but around here it's a big joke," said Michael Adams, a senior at KU in Manhattan, Kan. "Whenever someone sneezes or coughs, someone else will say 'Uh oh, you have the mumps.'"

Adams said his school is offering free vaccinations and student groups have sent out street teams to educate the campus. But he was surprised at the amount of attention his area has received from the rest of the nation. "People usually make a big deal about stuff they don't experience," Adams said. "But I'm not worried and I don't know many other people here who are worried."

On the other side of Iowa, Wisconsin has had even fewer confirmed cases of mumps. As of April 28, there were only 50.

"The mumps outbreak has not affected me at all except that I see commercials for stories about it on the evening news," said Phil Galfond, a junior at the University of Wisconsin Madison. "It hasn't even come up in conversation with any of my friends."

But KU's Adams said the attitude toward mumps on college campuses might just reflect the college culture.

"College kids definitely think they have an invincibility factor," Adams said. "They don't take things seriously because they don't think anything affects them."

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YSU

# President serves up pizza and answers

By: Cheryl Thompson  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University President David Sweet and key administrators provided students with free pizza and answers to questions concerning student wages, diversity and other campus issues.

About 15 students and administrators attended the second Student Government Association sponsored Pizza with the President event held Wednesday outside of the Tod-Hall Board room.

Sweet started off by reflecting on the state of the university in a year-end review fashion, filling in students about the Centennial Master Plan, wireless Internet, the Tax Payer's Bill of Rights and the possibility of a community college.

He said approximately 12,000 students attend YSU, add to that the 5,000 students who attend the three nearby Kent State University branch campuses for 17,000 students in the tri-county area. Sweet compared this number to 38,000 students in Toledo, a city with attributes similar to Youngstown.

"Youngstown is the only metropolitan area in Ohio without a community college," Sweet said.

He continued by saying that money could be freed up if remedial courses were offered at a community college in two-year programs, instead of YSU.

"The community college initiative aims to increase education levels in the Youngstown area," Sweet said.

Sweet mentioned how this would help make sure that YSU wouldn't be hurt should Gov. Robert Taft's education reform bill be put into place. The plan calls for all remedial classes to be taught at two-year institutions — significantly hurting the number of classes YSU currently offers.

Another area of interest Sweet addressed is the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and Tax Expenditure Limitation legislation going on November's ballot. Sweet urged students to become familiar with the proposed amendments and warned of possible unpleasant side effects to higher education funding in Ohio.

"If the legislation passes, it will put limits on the amount of money the state can spend and could have a \$400 million impact on higher education funds," Sweet said.

Following the updates, Sweet and other administrators answered student's questions.

Senior Josh Ehret said he never received the increase in student wages that is supposed to be implemented once a student works for 100 hours.

Cynthia Anderson, vice president for student affairs, said Ehret would have to provide documentation, and while there is no way for the raise to be implemented automatically, the university is looking to remedy the situation through the new Banner computer system.

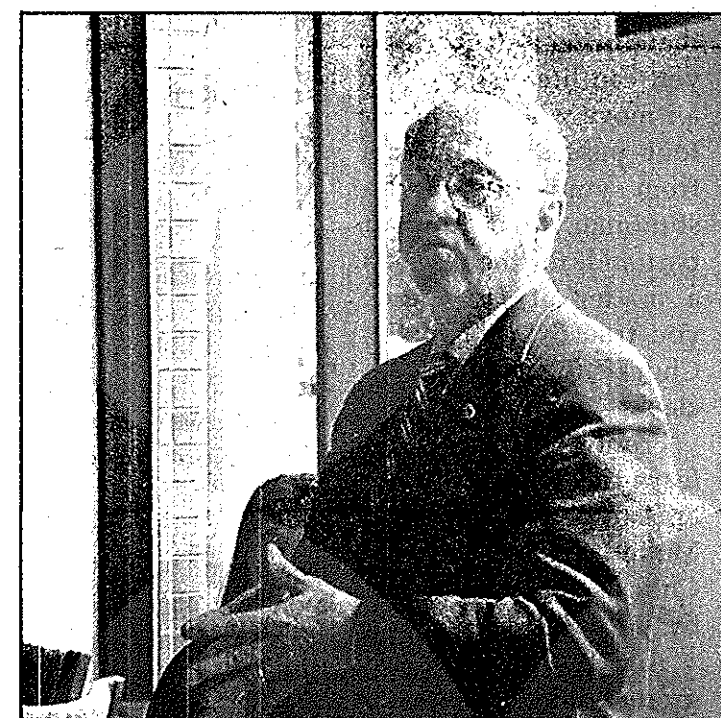
Sophomore and Jambor staff member Katie Libecco asked Sweet about YSU's role in bringing residents to Youngstown.

"Most of the improvements seem to be focused around entertainment, but what about things to keep residents?" Libecco said and pointed out that Youngstown has only one bed and breakfast with no hotels or motels, and should consider more retail outlets such as grocery stores.

Sweet said YSU's involvement with the 2010 program and the Centennial Master Plan included proposals to develop retail and residency accommodations downtown.

Sophomore Monica Nieves, asked how the university plans to become more involved with Youngstown City School students.

Citing involvement with Youngstown Early College, on



Jambor / Katie Libecco

YSU President David Sweet addresses students during Wednesday's Pizza with the President in Tod Hall. Sweet spoke of successes of administration and future plans for the school. About 15 administration members and students attended.

campus-weekend programs and regular meetings with Youngstown City Schools Superintendent Wendy Webb, Sweet said the university is doing its part to create a liaison with the city schools, but said suggestions are welcome.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Chuck Norris has gone from TV karate chops to Net punch lines

By: Bryon Okada  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPER  
(KRT)

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH AIRPORT** — You're standing at the security lines outside Gate 21 in Terminal C.

The ultimate goal is to reach Chuck Norris to discuss the Internet phenomenon of Chuck Norris jokes, which has caught on with students mostly boys ranging from middle school to college. A college student in Rhode Island is credited with starting the craze last summer. Since then, Norris has reached major online stud status because of the nerdy braggadocio about the physical, intellectual and sometimes sexual prowess of The Man Who Was "Walker, Texas Ranger."

Example: "Chuck Norris can slam revolving doors."

Or: "Chuck Norris doesn't do push-ups. He pushes the Earth down."

Or Chuck's personal favorite: "They once tried to carve Chuck Norris' face into Mount Rushmore, but the granite wasn't hard enough."

In the quest to find Norris, you head to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport to find Bill Reed.

By day, Reed may be an airport screener but among fellow stuntmen he's "Grizzley" and, yep, he's tough as a bear, and the stunt work he got on "Walker, Texas Ranger" he got because he can take it. ("What ain't been broke's been bent pretty good," he says cheerfully.)

Grizzley will tell you: "When Chuck hits you, it's you who messed up."

Grizzley says he's aware of the Chuck jokes and they're not all that far off. Apparently Chuck's proficiency in Korean martial arts and other Chuck fu is such that during a staged fight you can literally feel the air move when his fist or foot passes millimeters from your face. As a stuntman, you do your part and, for the rest, it's a matter of "in Chuck you trust." Don't forget, Chuck's the genuine article.

From Grizzley you learn that Chuck's brother, Aaron, lives in Flower Mound, Texas, and that Chuck's got a ranch nearby.

Armed with this background, it's time to take a stab at finding Chuck.

You start off bright and early the next day, looking for Chuck Norris' publicist. At this point, you know you don't have anything particularly original to ask Chuck.

Hey, you think this is cool or what?

You'll just have to hope that Chuck's as nice

as everyone says and that he'll patiently answer that yet again.

A quick Internet search brings up other stories written about the subject, and you learn that Chuck's publicist is a guy named Jeff Duclos. You also notice that most of the stories contain quotes from Duclos and not Norris, or Duclos-said-Norris-said-quotes. "Yes, that's me,"

Duclos answers politely, when you cold-call him based on a Web search and ask him if this is the Jeff Duclos who represents Chuck Norris. You inform Duclos right off that you're probably the 900th reporter who wants to ask questions about Chuck Norris jokes, and he chuckles. It hasn't been quite the deluge of interview requests that you expect.

"It wouldn't be necessarily daily, it would be weekly," he says. "It's definitely a phenomenon. He doesn't mind it. It's all very flattering. And some are laugh-out-loud funny."

Nice guy, Jeff. He politely says Chuck is busy this week. Out of town. Publicizing something called the World Combat League. But send an e-mail.

So you e-mail over a few quick questions and your phone number and cross your fingers.

You dream of Chuck's call: "Hi, this is Chuck Norris. I heard you wanted to talk about me being an online icon..." He tells you he's not a real computer guy, more of an outdoorsman. You know, more "Walker"-like. (This you're guessing, based on other stories where Chuck talks about the jokes.)

The call never comes.

Now you look for Ian Spector, credited with initiating online Chuck humor, by starting at his Web site ([www.4q.cc](http://www.4q.cc)). A short biographical page says a guy going by the alias Toad King runs the day-to-day Chuck operation, but you still e-mail Ian because the page describes him as the "head honcho."

His site started as an homage to the actor Vin Diesel. Only after a public poll was taken did Chuck Norris become the focus of the site.

The rest of the phenomenon seems to be mostly about people copying from the site, then copying the copies, and e-mailing the copies, and so on and so forth. Thousands of times. Millions, maybe. Who knows?

Legends, like tall tales, are stories everybody knows but nobody knows where they came from.

Like the publicist, he tells you that about a dozen reporters have

interviewed him about the site.

"I try to keep school-work first," he says. From his Brown University dorm room in Rhode Island, Ian works on the Chuck Norris joke Web site between computer, math and engineering classes. "I'm in a bit of a funk right now about what I'm going to do, but hopefully it ends up with med school."

Ian says he's got nothing for or against Chuck. "I met him, and he's a really nice guy."

No, the site has not made a celebrity out of the 18-year-old from Long Island, N.Y. He does occasionally wear a T-shirt that proclaims: "People know who I am on the Internet." His friends sometimes brag. Being "that guy" got him into exactly one party.

"As far as the site, I expect it to die off at any minute," he says. "It's up to the public on that one."

Three weeks go by and nothing.

Then the publicist e-mails to say Chuck's back from an out-of-country trip. Turns out Chuck will be holding a one-hour teleconference with college newspapers. The subject is Chuck's new book, "The Justice Riders," and Chuck's career in general. Yep, in addition to movie star, television actor, martial artist and Internet tough guy he's also a fiction writer.

Only two people ask questions about the book during the teleconference.

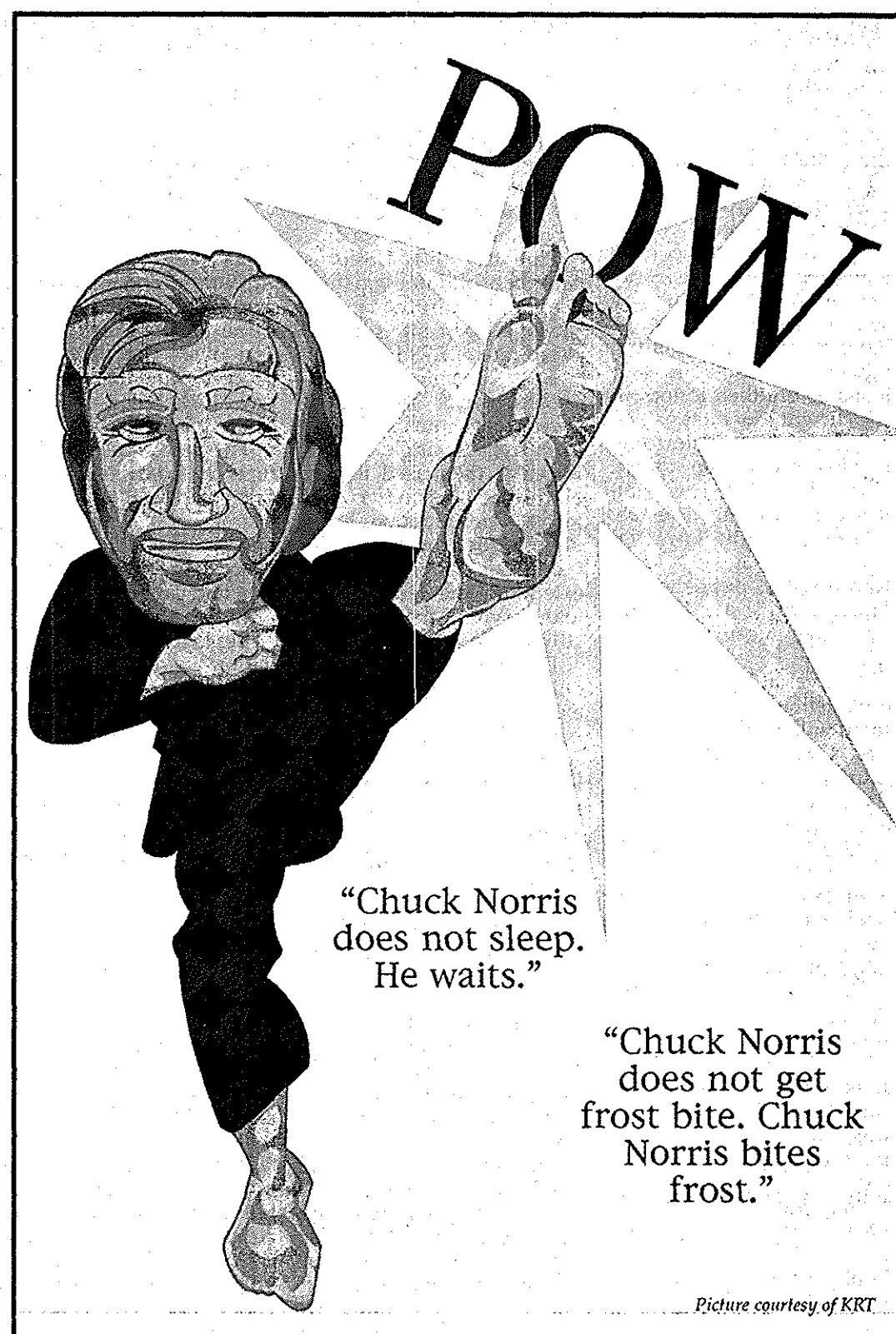
The students are armed with their Chuck jokes and youthful questions about how it must feel to be... superhuman?

"I tell you, it's been quite amazing to me," Chuck says about the jokes. He credits Spector as lead jokester. He says he has e-mails from Iraq and Afghanistan, from soldiers who exchange the jokes as they go from post to post. Good for morale.

He tells the Boogeyman joke: "When the Boogeyman goes to sleep every night, he checks the closet for Chuck Norris."

Questions range from "Why is 'Walker' so slow to come to DVD?" and "Why do you think the Bible should be taught in school?" to "Are you the third side of the Force?" One college student asks: "What could I do to become just like you?"

It's clear that "Walker" is water under the bridge. Entertainment questions center on recent action films that use wire-work stunts. (Those are the "Matrix"-esque flying stunts that include hanging actors/stuntmen from wires to make them seem



Picture courtesy of KRT

to defy gravity.) Because they are young, we pay attention. Apparently, Chuck and Bruce that would be martial arts icon Bruce Lee long ago opted for earthly styles. There will be no Chuck side of the Force, he says.

He is asked about late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien making jokes out of "Walker" clips. He is asked about training daytime game-show host Bob Barker because college kids know about the "Happy Gilmore" fight scene. He talks about teaching '70s action star Steve McQueen, but then has to explain who he was. Yes, he sang the "Walker" theme song. No, he won't sing again. No, he won't do comedies.

Chuck says expanding his KICKSTART Foundation, a martial arts program for at-risk children started in Houston and Dallas, will be the "last chapter" of his career.

It's quickly obvious that Chuck is expected to be all things to all people. He is savvy enough to play along.

For more than an hour, he is polite and patient and forges ahead with a positive message of staying the course. He does not brush off anyone's question. The teleconference becomes a lovefest and, really, is it any surprise? He is theirs. Chuck Norris is the star of Ian Spector's new media phenomenon. The phenomenon is identifiable because they love him and they are young.

AND make it drink.

•Chuck Norris does not get frostbite. Chuck Norris bites frost.

**The man behind the icon**

Real Name: Carlos Norris  
Age: 66 (March 10, 1940)

Birthplace: Ryan, Okla.

Background: Part-Cherokee, part-Irish, Norris and his brothers were raised largely by their mother in Torrance, Calif. Norris is self-described as shy and introverted. He described his father as "an alcoholic and a philanderer."

Martial arts: Norris first learned martial arts in Korea while in the Air Force. He is the first person from the Western Hemisphere to be awarded "Grand Master" status in tae kwon do, a break with 4,500 years of tradition. He is also a 10th-degree black belt in tang soo do, and has a black belt in Brazilian jujitsu. He has opened dozens of martial arts schools. His KICKSTART Foundation teaches martial arts to at-risk students.

Acting: Introduced to Hollywood by student Steve McQueen, Norris quickly became a cult hero in action films then achieved mainstream success with the TV series "Walker, Texas Ranger." It premiered in 1993 and ran for nine seasons.

•Chuck Norris does not sleep. He waits.

•Chuck Norris is currently suing NBC, claiming "Law & Order" are trademarked names for his left and right legs.

•Chuck Norris is the reason why Waldo is hiding.

•Chuck Norris is so fast, he can run around the world and punch himself in the back of the head.

•Chuck Norris doesn't wear a watch, HE decides what time it is.

•Chuck Norris can lead a horse to water



RELATIONSHIPS

# Breakups add stress to lives of college students

By: Maysoon Abdelrasul  
 FEATURES REPORTER

College life is more than sitting in a class, taking notes and preparing for tests.

It's about the chase. Dating plays a large role in the lives of some college students and break ups are another important aspect of college life. Some people think more about how to break up with someone than about studying for a test.

Random students at Youngstown State University were asked about relationships and their responses varied. Experts said each relationship depends on what the people involved want out of it.

Professor Julie Thomas teaches the Psychology of Intimate Relationships course at YSU and said some people view relationships as a chase.

"The game is for you to win and use that person for what you want," Thomas said.

Junior Mary McCabe said her longest relationship lasted three years with a boy she met when she went away to college.

She said the relationship started because they were both smart asses and it was more about who could say the meanest thing to the other.

MCCabe said he made her mad

and she broke up with him over the phone. She said he was angry with her for breaking up with him, but they talk every once in awhile on the phone.

She's in a new relationship right now. McCabe said she has been seeing her current boyfriend for 3 months and he does not know she talks to her ex every so often.

"Once you got it, you don't want it," she said.

A study of college students from a book Thomas uses to teach her course on relationships — "Marriages, Families and Intimate Relationships" — found that 88 percent of women and 89 percent of men had experienced the breakup of at least one relationship.

Junior Gary DiLisio said the respectful way to break up with a girl is talking face-to-face and being honest.

"I take breaking up over the phone as an insult," he said.

What YSU students said matched results of a nationwide study in "Marriages, Families and Intimate Relationships." It showed 75 percent of men and 68 percent of women break up face-to-face. Only nine percent of men break up over the phone whereas 19 percent of women prefer the phone to direct confrontation.

DiLisio said his longest relation-

ship lasted three months.

"You have your whole life to be married, I don't want to look back and have regrets," he said.

He said college is a way to meet new people and by being tied down to one person it's hard to enjoy college life. Thomas agreed with DiLisio about the college environment.

"College is a place of experimenting a lot of things," DiLisio said.

Freshman Joannie Perez agreed. She said all relationships are just about the challenge.

"I want a guy who doesn't seem interested," Perez said.

Excuses are the key to get out and find something new. Not many college students are looking for that one person to spend the rest of their lives with, they are just looking to hook up.

Freshman Arthur Ward said lying is the easiest way to get out of a relationship. Some excuses he thinks work are: "I am stressed out from school" or, "I am too young to be tied down."

Thomas said some reasons for the breakup of a relationship include that the relationship is taking more time than intended or personal fears and insecurity about getting close to someone.

Call Maysoon Abdelrasul at (330) 941-3758.



## Fours ways to deal with a deteriorating relationship:

**The Neglect Response:** "Just let the relationship go and fall apart." (Typical with men more than women)

**The Exit Response:** "We have to end our relationship." (Typical with young people who are involved in a relationship for a short time)

**The Loyalty Response:** "Let's just stick it out despite any difficulties." (Typical with women more than men)

**The Voice Response:** "We need to talk about improving our relationship." (Typical with women more than men)

Source: Caryl Rusbult

COMMENTARY

# The Jambar's pro-Pepsi bias eliminated

By: Coca-Cola Presents  
 Bob Mackey with Retsyn

As the curtain falls on another season of The Jambar, our readers will undoubtedly have no idea what to do with themselves. With only a few weekly issues in the summer followed by long, hot, Jambar-less months, I can already hear the sound of thousands, if not millions of loaded revolvers entering mouths campus-wide. To these poor souls I have this to say: you should really consider eating Arby's as a quicker method of suicide. From what I hear, the bacon, beef and cheddar sandwich is like riding with the devil himself. You also won't spook the people living in Youngstown who are still unused to the sound of gunshots.

But all hope is not lost! The Jambar has lots of upcoming changes that you should be aware of, and since you are probably sitting on the toilet right now (as polls indicate is the most popular method of reading this newspaper), you will probably have enough time to find out how The Jambar has nowhere to go but up!

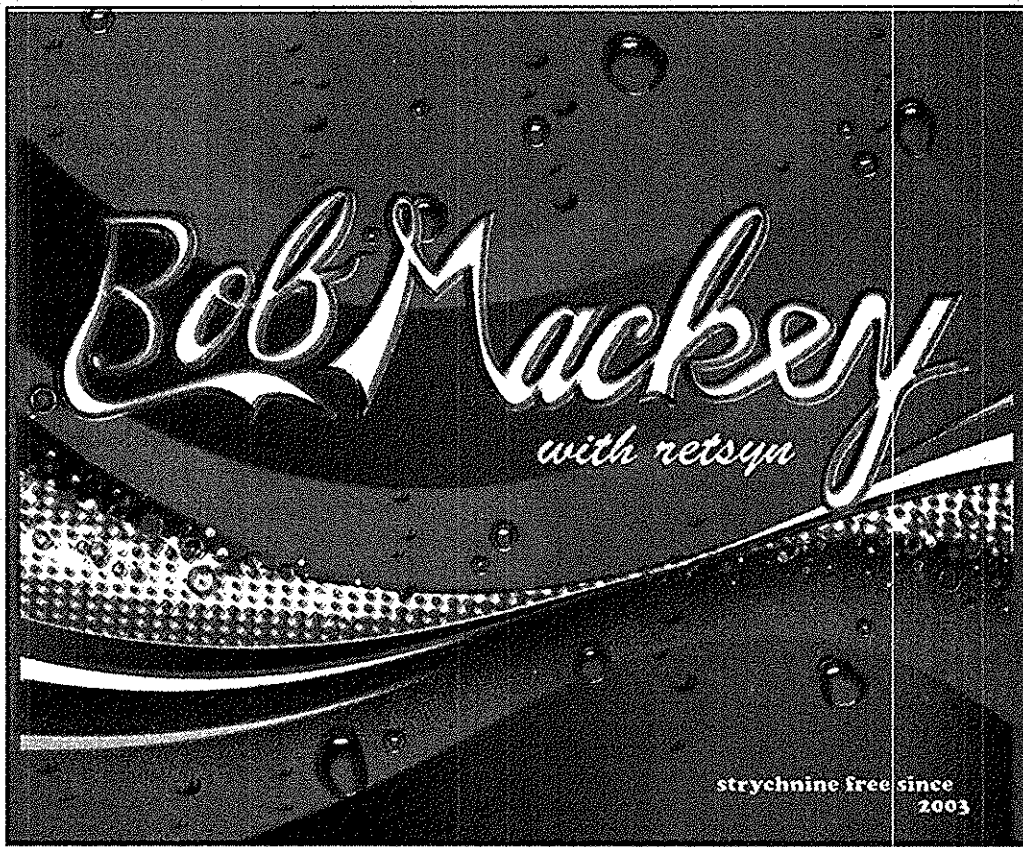
The key to all of this upcoming greatness lies in corporate sponsorship. I didn't know this until recently, but the Coca-Cola Company had bought out The Jambar months ago. It's not so strange when you consid-

er that college football teams receive corporate sponsorship all the time to buy new helmets and to pay off girls who have been "quarterback sacked," but at one point I wondered why a cola company would have a vested interest in a humble college newspaper. I no longer question my new leaders, but I had my doubts when a bunch of Coke executives stormed The Jambar compound, demanding to know why we haven't been mentioning their products this entire semester. When we answered that we didn't know they were in charge and that we also have integrity, the gauntlet was thrown down.

It was later that I found out we never had integrity. Boy was my face red, much like the Coca-Cola logo! Our paper's pro-Pepsi bias has been so obvious that I did not disagree at all when my corn-syrup peddling overlords said The Jambar is the worst it's been in a decade. I was then shown many Pepsi propaganda articles that I didn't think we published this year, but I will admit my ignorance and run corrections and clarifications on these lies in the space I have below:

- Coca-Cola does not cause miscarriages; it saves you hundreds of thousands of dollars during the course of 20 years.

- Obese children should not be refused soft drinks, as they are the farm ani-



strychnine free since 2003

Art by Nick Daniel

mals of the 21st century.

- Diabetes is not debilitating, in fact, it gives you the chance to wear fancy new shoes.

- Bottles of Coca-Cola do not cause African bushmen to go insane; this is merely the gods being crazy.

With that cleared up, there's no doubt you have noticed my new name. That's right, I am now "Coca-Cola Presents: Bob Mackey with Retsyn." You'll find that I now have a strong ideology due to my corporate sponsors, and also the power of retsyn, which will leave your mouths feeling as clean as the untouched waters of Lake Erie. You will also be refreshed by my new content and clever segues, such as the one you are

reading now.

I've come to understand satire is too hard to understand for some people, and can often lead to mixed messages; the kind representatives of Coke let me know this while brandishing lead pipes. Much research was done on my behalf to discover what college students really think is funny, so in the future most of my articles will be about Ramen, pizza, beer and hilarious videos from the Internet. Have you seen the one where the fat kid swings a broomstick around like Darth Vader with cerebral palsy? Of course you have, but that doesn't mean you won't want to read 1,000 words about it! I will also take the liberty of massaging the nostalgia organ by providing

references to the past without jokes, a la "Family Guy." Remember "Step by Step?" I wish I didn't.

Coke, in a bold revisioning of the newspaper format, also has plans to take The Jambar to places it has never gone, the first of which is underground. The potential for advertising space is almost limitless under the earth's crust! In an experiment that will be held this summer, The Jambar will be publishing treasure maps of where to find my articles, and distributing digging tools from the office. All of those who promise to drink refreshing Coke products while digging for comedy gold will be granted the right to one official Jambar

please see **MACKEY**, Page 5

YSU

# YSU set to host Percussion Day for first time

By: Ashley Tate  
 JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University will host the 2006 Ohio Percussion Day for the first time 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday in Kilcawley Center.

"We chose to do it somewhere different, it usually happens in the center of the state, Columbus, so that everyone from all over can come. But we chose YSU so that we'd be putting out a radius for everyone," Glenn Schaft, director of Percussion Studies and associate director in the Dana School of Music, said.

The event is open to anyone with percussive interests.

"We will be having performances from clinicians and other opportunities for people to play," Schaft said. "This is an educational event to open people's eyes in the field of percussion."

Schaft said there will be six guest artists and clinicians performing including Ruben Alvarez, Michael Burritt, Nathan Douds, Tom Freer, Mike McIntosh and John Riley. There will also be lectures, drum circles, competitions, free lessons and a retail section.

The day will also feature the High School Snare Drum, Tenors and Keyboard Solo Competition.

Keith Aleo, director of Education and Orchestral Activities at Zildjian, will discuss the manufacturing process and the history of the company.

The Percussion Marketing Council Play Drums Program will host free drumset lessons for beginners and the YSU SMARTS Drum Circles will host 15-minute drum circles.

Schaft said more than 200 participants have been invited and he expects 500-700 people to attend.

- ▶ 5/5 — Baseball vs. UIC
- ▶ 5/6 — Softball @ Loyola
- ▶ 5/7 — Softball @ Loyola
- ▶ 5/12 — Baseball vs. UW Milwaukee

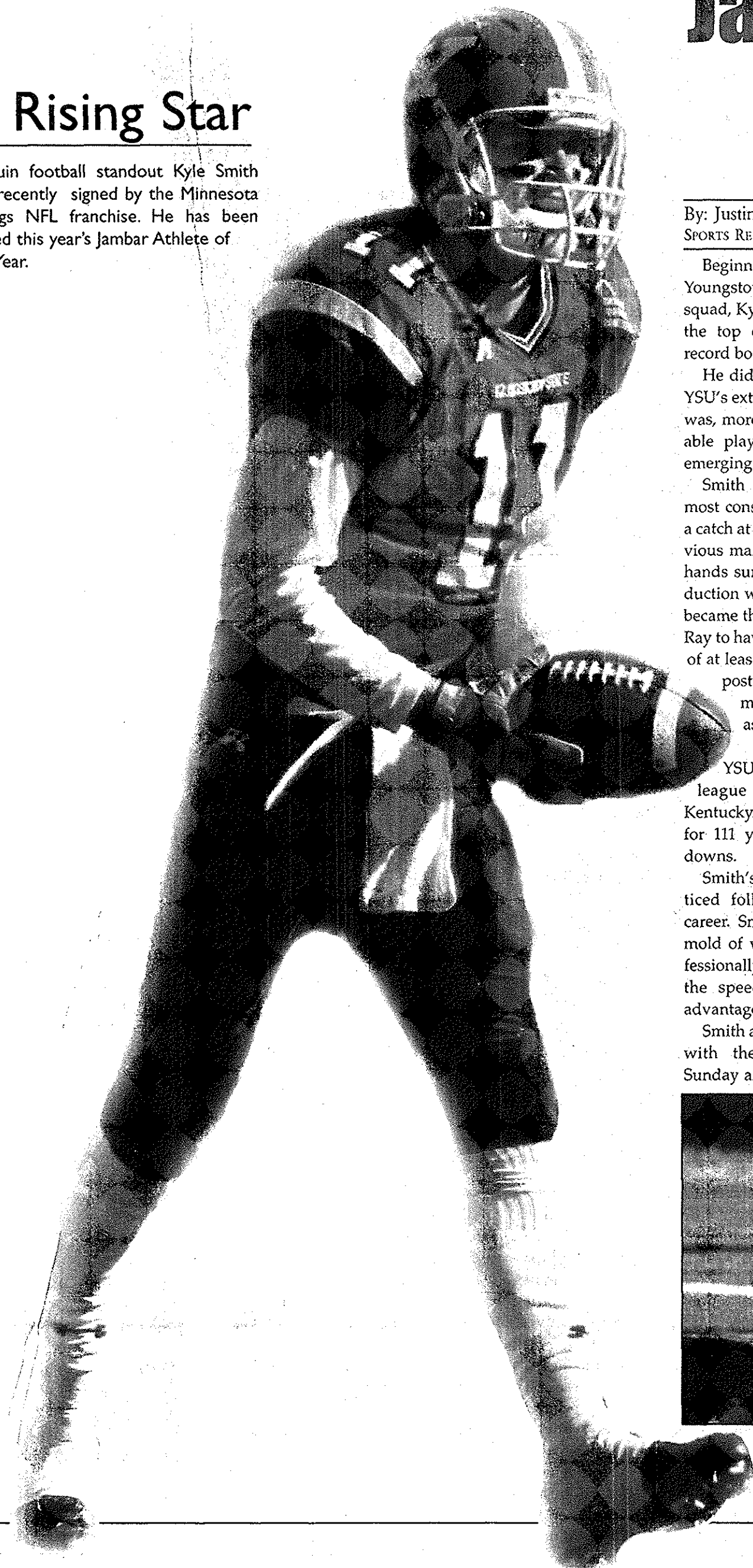
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

# KYLE SMITH

## Jambar Athlete of the Year

### A Rising Star

Penguin football standout Kyle Smith was recently signed by the Minnesota Vikings NFL franchise. He has been named this year's Jambar Athlete of The Year.



By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

Beginning as a wide receiver on the Youngstown State University football squad, Kyle Smith chewed his way to the top of most of the university record books.

He didn't just solidify his place in YSU's extensive football history — he was, more importantly, the most reliable player on a team filled with emerging stars.

Smith set the record at YSU for most consecutive games played with a catch at 30 games, snapping the previous mark of 28. Not only were his hands sure things, his offensive production was just as impressive, as he became the first player since Renauld Ray to have three consecutive seasons of at least 400 yards receiving. Smith posted 530 yards as a sophomore, 444 as a junior and 482 as a senior.

His career was capped off at YSU with a big game against league foe and rival Western Kentucky. Smith pulled in six catches for 111 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Smith's talents haven't gone unnoticed following his stellar college career. Smith fits into a burgeoning mold of wide receivers playing professionally — smaller in height with the speed and quickness to take advantage of mismatches.

Smith agreed to sign as a free agent with the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday afternoon, becoming the first

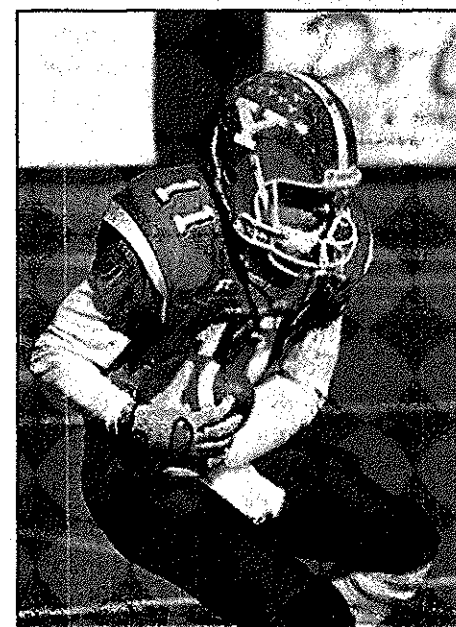
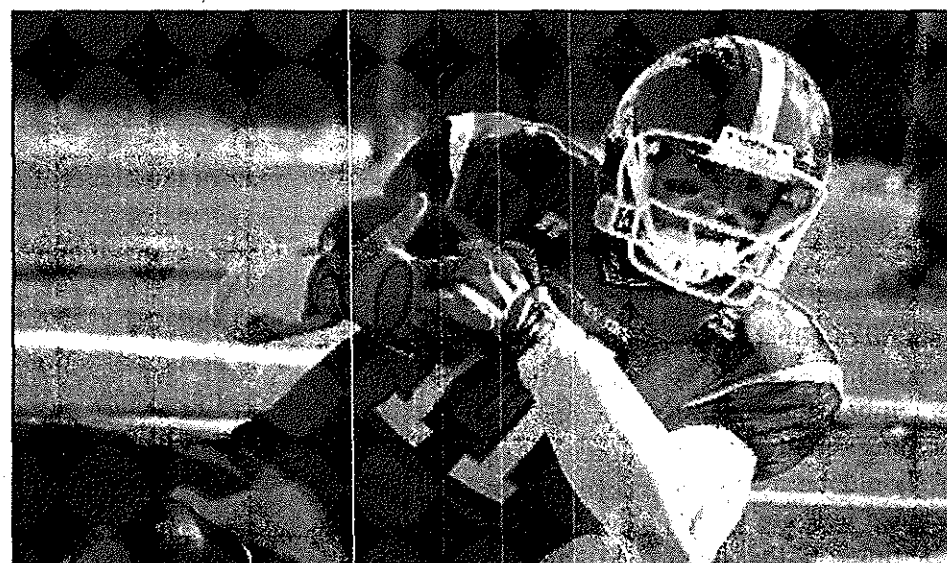


Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information. Penguin to join the pro ranks since Russel Stuvaints with the Steelers and PJ Mays who signed with the San Diego Chargers. Both signed with their pro teams in 2002.

Smith said that he expects to see time handling punt returns as well as playing receiver akin to his days as a Penguin.

He was also awarded Honorable Mention All-Gateway Conference notoriety and was named a team captain on an 8-3 Penguin squad that earned the school's first Gateway title and finished his career at YSU with four letters. Smith previously earned All-Conference honors his junior season earning his first Honorable Mention award from the Gateway Conference.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.



Photo's courtesy of YSU Sports Information. Layout design by Adam Rogers.



YSU SPORTS IN BRIEF

**Men's golf finishes second in HL championships**

The Youngstown State men's golf shot the best round of the day on Tuesday to earn its best fin-

ish ever at the league meet coming in second at the 2006 Horizon League Championships. YSU was just five shots behind Cleveland State, which won its first conference crown since 1998.

On Tuesday, YSU shot a two-under par 285 counting 68, 72, 72 and 73 towards its team total. The Penguins, who were fourth after the first two rounds, were able to overtake Detroit and Loyola to finish second.

**Women take second in HL golf championships**

The Youngstown State women's golf team finished second at the 2006 Horizon League Women's Golf

Championships, which concluded on Tuesday afternoon at the Plum Creek Golf Club. Butler won the team title for the second consecutive year while taking the top four individual finishes. The Penguins fin-

ished with a three-round score of 979 after firing a 326 on Tuesday.

Source: ysusports.com