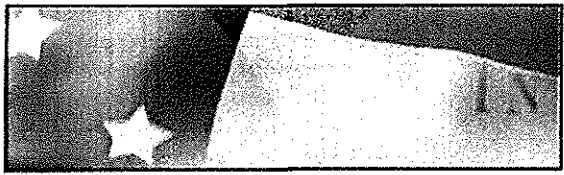




Need help buying a digital camera? see page 4



Fourth of July party planning tips see page 4

THE JAMBAR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, June 29, 2006

www.thejambar.com

VOL. 88 NO. 70

YSU

Tuition on the rise again

By: Adrienne Sabo
COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University student Kelsey Rupert is describing the tuition hike in terms she can understand. Tuition is going up about \$183 a semester. "That's a car payment," Rupert said.

YSU Board of Trustees voted on Friday to increase tuition from \$3,166.44 a semester to \$3,348.48, an increase of \$182.04 for full time undergraduate students.

Some students don't understand why tuition is rising yet again.

Drew Tomko, a criminal justice major said, "I think it's dumb. College is now way too much and I don't get why."

Student Government Association President Chad Miller said, that the increase will be more of a burden on students and it is unfortunate that it has to happen, but it was expected.

"Students are coming here for a good education, not just a good value. If we want the

quality to stay the same it means the cost must go up," he said.

YSU President David Sweet said, "The reality is that every institution increases tuition and will continue to increase unless there is a dramatic change in perspective for student support from the state."

There are options to help defer the rising cost of tuition.

YSU currently has 423 scholarships to offer students. Elaine Ruse, director of financial aid and scholarships, said that the criteria varies, but students are able to go online and use a search engine to find scholarships that apply to them.

According to Ruse, the university included close to \$700,000 in additional scholarship funding in the new budget.

Reid Schmutz, president of the YSU Foundation said that awarding scholarships is like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle. Schmutz recommends that students use the online search engine and fill out a

FAFSA to begin the scholarship search process.

Sweet said, "Our scholarship programs are attractive and should be checked out by any YSU student and students looking to come to YSU."

With the upcoming elections, students should get informed about what candidates plan on doing to help tuition costs he said.

Miller said that one of the ways to stop tuition increase is to work with state legislators and lobby for changes in the state budget. Miller said, "State funding is significantly going down and we need to make our cause and get back into the budget."

YSU's tuition remains one of the lowest in the state and some students are aware of this fact.

Kollin Rupert, a YSU student, said, "It is an increase, but compared to other schools it is still cheaper."

Sweet said, "We are \$1,300 below the average state cost for college and \$1,700 less than Kent and Akron."



Jambar/ Emery Boyle-Scott

Mike Borsh, MoveOn member, protests outside of a local gas station against the high gas prices. For the complete story see page 2.

FASHION

Super hot summer sunglasses

By: Laura Neely
Adrienne Sabo
THE JAMBAR

At the first sight of the blistering summer sun, people break out the sunglasses. Since 1930 they've gained popularity and are now an essential summer accessory.

Practically every clothing or department store offers sunglasses, so finding where to look isn't hard. Prices vary especially when it comes to sunglasses. Target, Old Navy, Kohl's and JC Penny's all offer moderately priced sunglasses for less than \$20. Designer brands of course cost more, with the average price around \$200. Technology has also helped to improve sunglasses. For those looking to spend a little more than usual, Oakley offers,

"Thumps", sunglasses with a built-in MP3 player and up to 512 megabytes of memory. These "musical shades" can cost anywhere from \$500 and up.

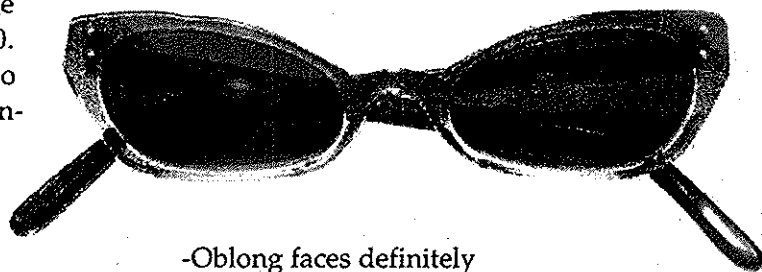
Most importantly finding the right shape to fit your face is essential. One simple tip is to where the opposite shape of what your face is. For example, if you have a round face, wear a rectangular frame.

However more detailed guidelines will help you to find the right fit.

-Oval faces can wear almost any kind of sunglasses and it will look good on them. These face shapes are the most proportioned.

-Heart shaped faces should wear rimless sunglasses. Without rims, the sunglasses will not create as much of a border as frames.

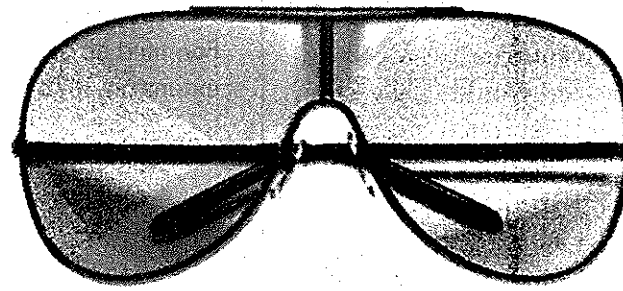
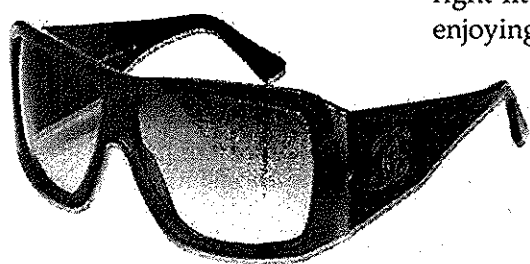
-Round faces will want to wear glasses that make the face thinner and longer. The best are angular or rectangular frames, this will give length to the face; also try sunglasses with a brow bar.



-Oblong faces definitely have it easy this season with oversized frames. These help to balance out the length of the face.

-Square faces should stick to oval or rounded frames. This will add softness to the face and create a nice shape.

Whatever your price range and whatever your style, there is a pair of sunglasses for you. Most importantly make sure to try them on before you buy. Once you find the right fit you'll be on your way to enjoying the summer sun in style this year.



Aviators

Dark lenses, an oversized teardrop lens shape and thin metal frames characterize these shades. The design first appeared in 1936 when issued to the military aviators and coined the name, aviators. Designer brands such as Michael Kors and Prada make a variety of aviators, but inexpensive versions can be found in most stores.

Colors

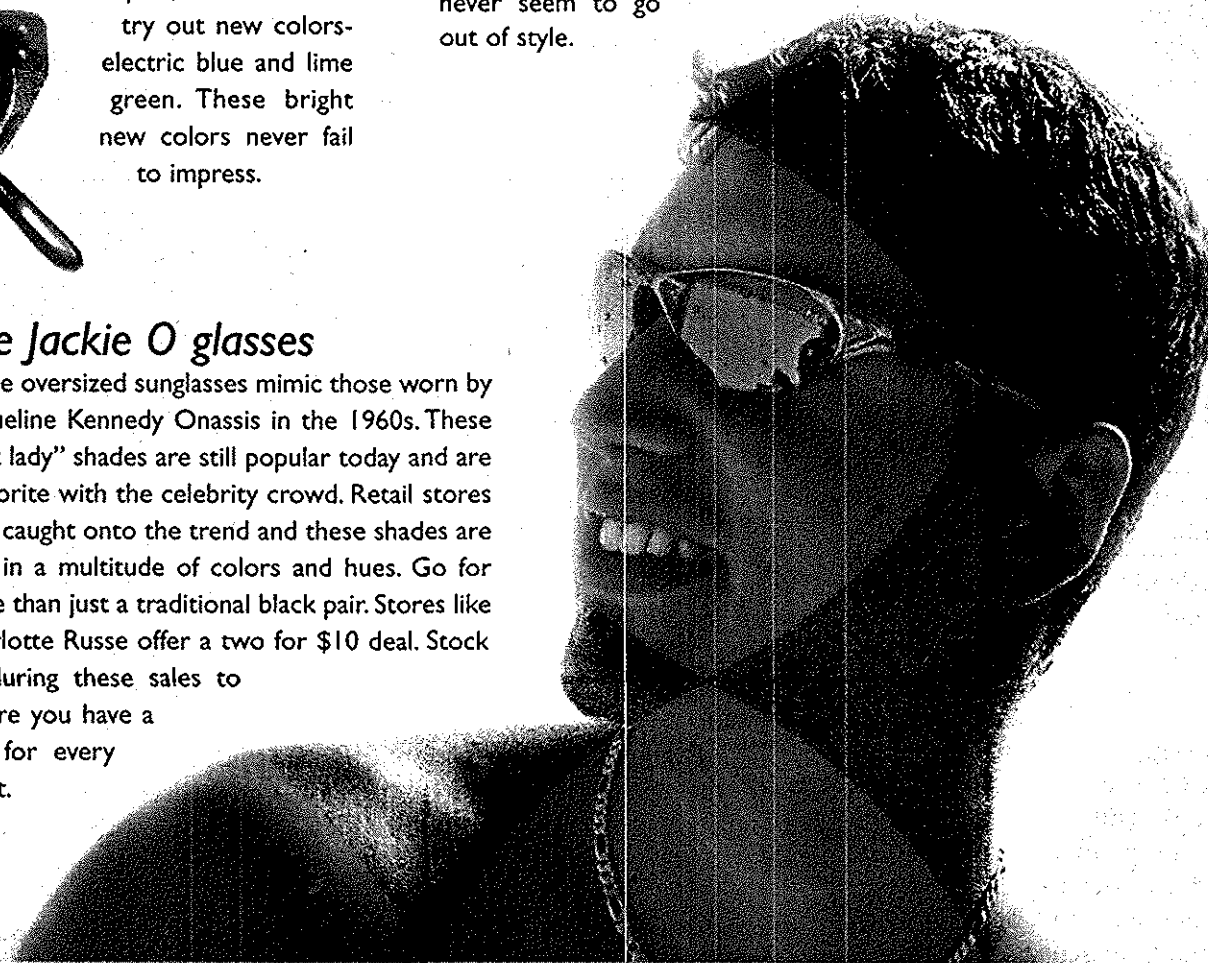
Colored sunglasses seem to be the thing of the moment. Find a color that compliments your skin tone. Black and tortoise frames are a thing of the past, so be bold and try out new colors- electric blue and lime green. These bright new colors never fail to impress.

Wayfarers

For those who are traditionalists, wayfarers are a safe option for summer sunglasses. These came to popularity in the 1950s by Hollywood celebrities such as James Dean. These sunglasses make a good investment and never seem to go out of style.

The Jackie O glasses

These oversized sunglasses mimic those worn by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in the 1960s. These "first lady" shades are still popular today and are a favorite with the celebrity crowd. Retail stores have caught onto the trend and these shades are sold in a multitude of colors and hues. Go for more than just a traditional black pair. Stores like Charlotte Russe offer a two for \$10 deal. Stock up during these sales to ensure you have a pair for every outfit.



Sunglass photo source: www.instyle.com Photo courtesy of KRT Campus

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GAS PRICES

Rally for an oil free Congress

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

At an Austintown gas station Wednesday night, Youngstown State University student Tim Raridon wore a T-shirt with the word "disobey" printed boldly beneath an outline of President Bush's face and waved a sign reading "Oil \$\$ out of Congress."

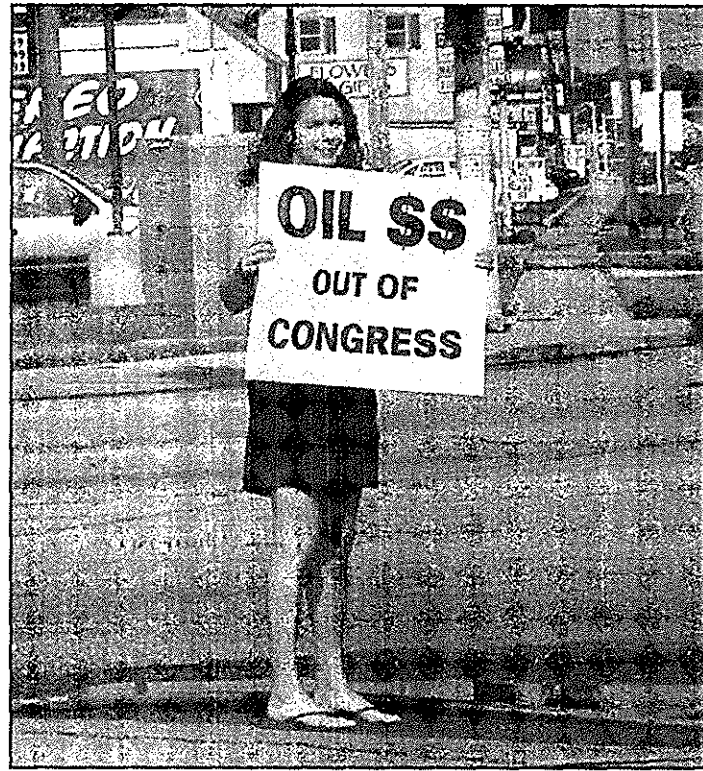
Raridon donned his apparel in the spirit of the Fourth of July.

MoveOn members of the Mahoning Valley gathered at the BP gas station on the corner of Mahoning Avenue and state Route 46 to protest rising oil prices and United States dependency on fossil fuel.

MoveOn is a political action organization that seeks to "bring real Americans back into the political process," according to www.moveon.org, the official MoveOn Web site.

Kim Kengor, a concerned citizen and host of the rally said, "This rally is a part of 300 similar events."

The Austintown protest was a part of a "National



Jambar/ Emery Boyle-Scott

A MoveOn member displays a protest sign on the corner of state Route 46 and Mahoning Avenue

Day of Action." Raridon said the Fourth of July brings out many travelers and a traditional raise in gas prices. "The idea is to get people aware of the link between oil and politics," he said.

"In the long run, the cost of gas is the least of our worries," Kengor said. The United States needs tighter fuel efficiency regulations, more alternative fuels and alternative energy sources,

such as water, wind, and solar power, she said.

Mike Borsh from Boardman said, "Gas prices are soaring out of control, and that affects my family's budget in a big way. Congress should be doing something about it."

The rally was the first MoveOn event in the area. Anyone interested in joining MoveOn can go online and sign up at www.moveon.org.

News In Brief

An evening of Truly "Magical" Debuts

Youngstown Playhouse presents the debut performance of local magician John Steven Bloom. He will wow and thrill onlookers with his unique blend of unbelievable illusions and sleight of hand.

Bloom and his family have toured the United States and Mexico. His performances are appropriate for all ages and of all demographic backgrounds.

The July 7 and 8 shows will be at 8 p.m. and tickets only cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. A matinee will be July 9 at 2:30 PM. Reservations can be made by calling (330) 788-8739.

MVHS Celebrates 80th Anniversary of Commercial Broadcasting

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society is sponsoring a traveling exhibit celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Commercial Broadcasting in the Mahoning Valley.

For more information, contact James Sturgill, Manager of Education and External Relations for the Mahoning Valley Historical Society at 330-743-2589. Or send email to mvhs@mahoninghistory.org.

YSU Women's Club Awards Five Scholarships

Youngstown State University Women's Club awarded \$1,000 scholarships to YSU students Kristy McCoy of Boardman, a sophomore, double majoring in religious studies and philosophy and Dana Broomes of New Castle, a sophomore nursing major.

Three scholarships, funded in memory of Martha K. Shuster, were awarded to Kelly Combs of New Middletown, a sophomore clinical laboratory science major, Orsolya Dunai of Austintown, a junior advertising major, and Charles Thayer of East Liverpool, a junior history major.

Application forms for the 2007-08 academic year are located at the Kilcawley Center Information Desk, the Scholarship and Financial Aid Office, and on the Women's Club Web site at www.ysu.edu/womensclub/scholarships.shtml. For more information, contact Denise Walters Dobson at 330-941-7272.

Summer YSU Preview

On Saturday, July 8, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions will host the Summer YSU Preview, informing prospective students about available services and activities at YSU. Information tables are available to YSU organizations and will be located in the Graphics Center hallway outside the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center. Tables must be reserved by July 1. For further information, contact Barb Romeo Shade at extension 3670.

Police Briefs

Gun Possession

A gun was found in the possession of several students on the seventh floor of Kilcawley House on June 26. The gun appeared to be a toy plastic air gun according to a police report. It was taken by the reporting officer, and transported to the police department.

Shots Fired

Shots were fired at the Gutknecht Towers Apartment Complex on June 22 according to a police report. Four firearms were recovered from the apartment building. Two subjects were apprehended according to the police report.

Classified

Help Wanted

Attention Students: National Health and Wellness Business seeking young professionals for customer service and sales, will work around all schedules. **\$14.50 an hour.** Apply now www.halejobs.com

Housing

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Miscellaneous

Avon- to buy or sell. Call Meshel at (330) 788-6203

YSU

McNally named budget director

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

Area resident returns to the Mahoning Valley, for new post at Youngstown State University.

YSU hired Neal McNally as the new director of budget planning and resource analysis, effective July 3.

McNally, a 1990 graduate of Boardman High School, said he looks forward to returning to the Valley.

Eileen Greaif, executive director of financial services, said, "his [McNally's] experiences at Ohio Board of Regents will be valuable to us." The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) currently invests about \$2.6 million in Ohio's higher education.

McNally, former assis-



McNally

tant director of budget and resource planning for OBR, said he will be making sure YSU gets the money it's supposed to from the State.

Greaif said, "He will be asked to evaluate the [current] budget process."

McNally said he sees one of his roles as budget director to be identifying needs and priorities within the university and recommend an allocation of funds.

Departmental troubleshooting is a key part of his job, "I see budget planning as an ongoing function," McNally said.

McNally said he sees the effect of the budget on students to be the "allocation of resources." McNally said he would make sure highly enrolled programs have enough funds for good professors, equipment and programs.

In light of the constantly rising tuition prices, McNally said tuition depends on state support, and state support of higher education has gone down recently through no fault of universities. Ohio has many top priorities, one of which is higher education, McNally said.

YSU

Departments facing change in small purchases

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

Academic departments at Youngstown State University will be changing their method of handling small purchases.

The new method, based off of the "Commercial Card Program" that YSU uses through National City bank, will allow departments to use the commercial card, a credit card for departments, to buy office supplies and other regular, small, expenses for departments instead of filing a purchase order.

The changes will be officially implemented if the YSU Board of Trustees approves them at their next meeting.

Jan Loychik, a purchasing agent for materials management, said the changes in the program would cut down on purchase order paperwork. By cutting down purchas-

orders, the university will be cutting down costs, she said.

Eileen Greaif, the executive director of financial services, said the changes to the commercial card program would streamline the process of purchasing and improve internal controls. If controls are improved, the process will be more effective, thereby improving money management, which will save the university, and students, money, Greaif said.

By using the credit card, small volume purchases will be made more effectively, Greaif said. Before the changes, departments would file a paper purchase order. By using a credit card some costs are eliminated and time is saved.

Rich Delisio, materials management director, said an internal audit, conducted by Packard Thomas, recommended changes to be made in the method of small volume purchasing.



photo courtesy of ysusports.com

Libeg signed pro contract

Former Youngstown State University penguin, Kevin Libeg, signed a free agent contract with the Cleveland Indians Friday.

Libeg reported to Winter Haven, Fla Monday to play with the GCL Indians in the Gulf Coast League.

Kyle Sobocki, assistant coach said in a news brief, "Kevin is a good kid and a great student, and he's very deserving of this opportunity."

Libeg was YSU's record holder in career appearances with 82. His most memorable appearance was as the winning pitcher in the 2004 Horizon League championship game. Libeg gave the Penguins their first Division I NCAA Tournament appearance by winning the 2004 Horizon League championship.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kristen Olmi



Junior, Political Science

Q. Do fireworks put you in "the mood"?

A. "Anybody who makes out at fireworks is lame."

Q. What makes a good Fourth of July?

A. "Being with good people, hamburgers, hotdogs, alcohol and the parade."

Q. What are the best drinks and food to serve?

A. "Tropical drinks, beers is always good and cheap, jungle juice and cut out a watermelon and fill it with vodka."

Q. Have you ever had a close call with fireworks?

A. "Yes, we lit off three big ones and as I was running away I got showered with debris."

Q. Where is the best place to see fireworks?

A. "Poland, Springfield, Struthers."

Q. Where is the best place to buy fireworks?

A. "Wholesale or Phantom."

THE Jambar

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

OUR SIDE

Respect all flags

An amendment to ban American flag desecration was rejected by a single vote in the Senate on Tuesday.

The failed amendment would have made burning the American flag a crime.

Whether or not we agree with the government, the American flag is a symbol of this country. Americans pledge allegiance to it at the start of the public school day and sing the national anthem to it before many events. And across the seas the American flag is recognized as many things, but always as the symbol of America.

It is more than just a piece of cloth. It represents our nation and the ideals it was built on. Our flag represents the national identity our soldiers have died for during wars. Now the Senate chooses to continue allowing Americans to desecrate the key figure of their nation.

Some may feel indifferent to the issue, or feel that flag desecration is free speech, a way to express their anger with the current state of the country. But at the heart of most Americans is pride in their country and their flag.

The failed amendment leaves in place the 1989 Supreme Court decision protecting flag burning. The decision ruled the desecration of the American flag was free speech and protected under the First Amendment. The Court reasoned that the First Amendment was designed to protect unpopular speech, and flag burning is certainly unpopular.

The amendment should have been banned because it is disrespectful to burn the American flag, but it should also extend to the burning of all countries' flags.

The laws of the land should reflect a tone of respect towards other countries. At the very least we could respect symbols of the country. America's people are a diverse bunch. Many of today's citizens hail from different countries and have a strong sense of pride for a country besides America.

So constitutionally it is fine to burn the American flag. Nobody even considered to ban all flag desecration. American law should protect the symbols of all countries.

Millions of Mexicans live and work in the United States. Shouldn't we have respect for the Mexican flag as well, and consider it just as important as the American flag, or at least close to that.

And what about the Italian-Americans of Youngstown? With a strong sense of pride many Italian-Americans would be as offended with the burning of an Italian flag as the burning of an American flag.

The Senate should ask more from the citizens. In a world consumed with political correctness, burning flags hardly seems politically correct.

A week before Independence Day and our government is saying that it is constitutionally right to burn the American flag. It just seems wrong.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



Cartoon courtesy of KRT Campus

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commentary misinformed on adoption

Megan Anderson's commentary on Ohio House Bill 515 ("Gays deserve rights to adopt") is interesting but rather misinformed on the politics of adoption. The public process determining adoption is an inherently discriminatory process: regardless of sexual orientation, no individual has an absolute right to adopt anyone, and nowhere in the U.S. Constitution is there any kind of "basic right" to adoption. State authorities and private agencies regularly screen any individual(s) pursuing adoption for financial, emotional, and relational stability and suitability. While the state has an interest in effectively representing the "rights" of the parentless child to a healthy home environment, no individual can "adopt" a child simply because they desire to do so. Ms. Anderson's commentary comes close to confusing the legal idea of "right" with the psychological notion of "desire", an increasingly unfortunate tendency among many Americans who have begun to view "rights" as instruments for mandating personal preferences.

While Ms. Anderson is on sounder ground when she criticizes the bill's authors for a kind of categorical discrimination, her own detailed examination of the bill reveals what may be a legitimate concern. In listing the bill's specific problematic categories (homosexu-

al, bisexual, transgender), Ms. Anderson ironically notes in passing that one category may be understood as a "disorder" (transgender individual), and completely overlooks the problem posed to healthy childcare by the category of "bisexual": in households where there is the distinct prospect that multiple sexual partners are part of the "lifestyle", children are in much greater danger of emotional turmoil and sexual abuse. Childcare experts see this in single-parent/female households where "boyfriends" come and go, and children unavoidably suffer. I have seen this myself, although my observations are only anecdotal and I am not a regular reader of statistical literature on the matter. But the point is that two out of three of the bill's "categories" are red flags from the point of view of emotional and relational stability. Most reasonable people would probably agree that such persons are not appropriate sponsors for children needing stable and healthy homes.

Finally, Ms. Anderson also alludes to "plenty of research" purporting to demonstrate that "gay households" are suitable environments for children, without raising any question about the sponsors of such research, or even wondering just how long the U.S. Census Bureau has been keeping tabs on "gay households" (answer: not long at all). Such "research" is palpably biased and its demographic analysis is underdeveloped in any meaningful empirical sense. Certainly there are no long-term studies of such "gay households" when it

comes to child care and development (both adolescent and adult). And what are the "children" going to say to such inquirers about their lives and conditions of care, especially if they are in households that contrast positively with whatever memories they may have of foster care or state institutions? All such context is ignored in favor of putting forward politically correct slogans about "gay adoption".

While not a citizen of Ohio, I do wonder about the motives of the sponsors of House Bill 515. I also sympathize with gay parents who seek to raise their biological children as well as those who have come into their care by whatever path. I share Ms. Anderson's concern about the number of children needing homes. However, her apparent conception of "rights" is troubling, as is her rather casual indifference to the notion that a mutually committed mother (female) and father (male) remains the best natural and humanly invented framework for raising children, whether biologically generated or adopted. If anyone has a "right" in this landscape, it is the child whose own natural origins can best be reflected and restored in a home where a mother and father work together to raise a family. Even biological parents have no "right" to their children: they are extraordinary gifts and not objects of preference.

Sincerely,
 Keith John Lepak, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor,
 Department of Political Science

House bill 515 sounds good to Munro

A recent editorial by Megan Anderson suggests that preventing gays from adopting children is discriminatory, goes against what our country was founded on, and reduces chances for adoption. She concludes by saying that even if some concerns about gays adopting are valid, it doesn't really matter.

I have lived long enough to observe the shifts in how our society thinks about things, i.e., what is right, what is good, what is wrong, what is not good. Most of us would agree that society has never had everything right, but that some things have changed in good ways. If change is always good, and if the changes about who can adopt will be good, why don't we just skip the fighting and allow adoption by anyone who wants to adopt?

For example, why not let pedophiles adopt? After all, there are those who have studied it and found such activities beneficial to the children. Oh, you say, "No, not everyone should be able to adopt." Herein lies the problem. Most of us believe in, or at least act on, some views we hold as

being "good." If you are one who holds ideas of what is "good" and what is "bad," then it behooves you to find a basis for your ideas. My intellectual basis begins with a recognition of the creator and what we see in his creation, but I do not claim to be perfect in thought or deed.

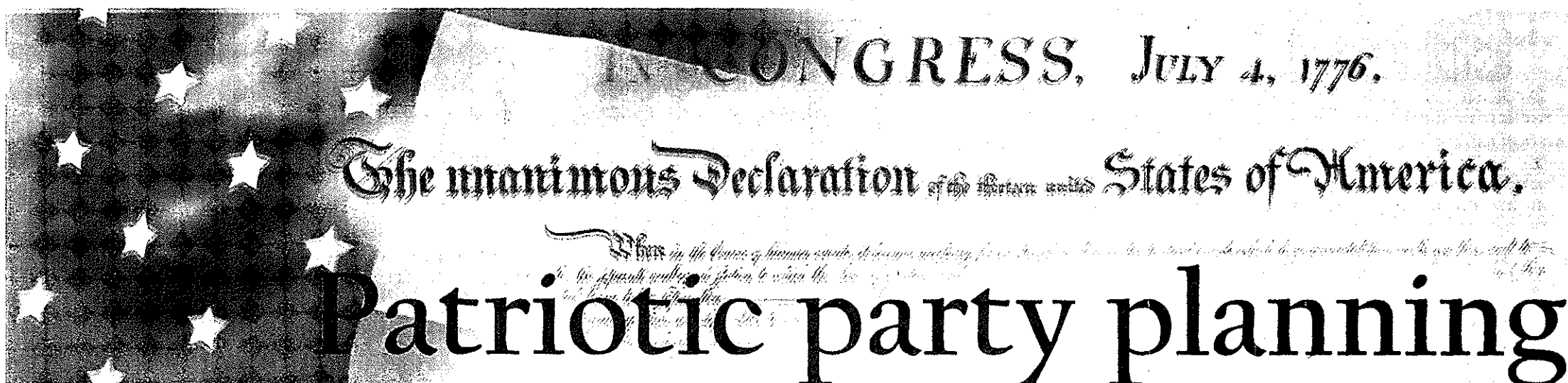
And I favor thoughtful discussion of ideas and philosophies instead of merely putting labels on those who express certain ideas. Before finishing, let me ask you not to label me as being homophobic. I am not. The intellectual basis by which I seek to live and think gives reasons to hold that every human is of value to the creator and that his creation has significance. But not everything we do or think is acceptable to him.

House Bill 515 sounds good to me, and might promote putting adopted children in proper households where there is at least a mother or father and hopefully both. Yes, our laws do in fact limit our freedoms, but hopefully for our protection and to improve lives.

Dr. Phil Munro

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

HOLIDAY



Patriotic party planning

By: Adrienne Sabo
COPY EDITOR

Independence Day is always marked with the traditional celebrations; cooking on the grill, watermelons, red white and blue decorations and fireworks, generally complete the festivities. What do you have planned for the ultimate Fourth of July party?

Prep Work

Planning a party, no matter how big or small, always seems daunting. Step one, make a list. Figure out what food is needed and make a grocery list. See what supplies you have and maybe team up with a friend and throw a party together. This way some stress is relieved and it's cheaper. Delegate the responsibilities. Get a group together to decorate and do as much prep work on the food as possible. Keep one person in charge of restocking drinks, one in charge of manning the grill and someone else in charge of music. Teaming up with friends and delegating some of the duties makes the night more pleasant for everyone.

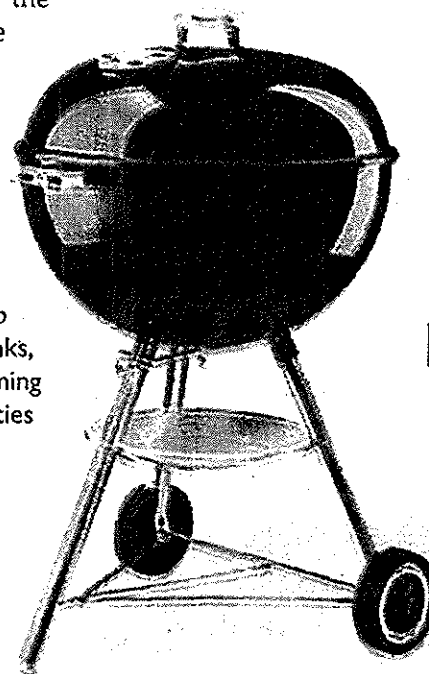


Food

One of the most important elements to any party is the food. Make sure to offer food that is easy to eat and the less messy the better. The traditional staples always work, but try out reinvented versions to breathe new life into these classics.

Hamburgers get a makeover when served with grilled mushrooms on top or tuna burgers add a surprise for guests. Keep the kitchen clean by grilling. Cookbooks and cooking Web sites like foodnetwork.com offer a variety of recipes for grilled desserts. Try putting fruit on the grill. The natural sugars inside the fruit make a sugary coating on the outside of the fruit. Serve plain or with a side of whipped cream.

Refreshments are essential too. Offer a variety so everyone can find what they like. Grocery stores often offer specials on canned drinks, especially around the Fourth of July. Keep them cool in a cooler next to the food table and check back often to restock.



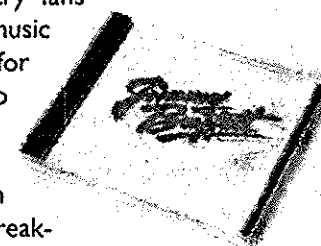
Decorations

With most of your time, effort and money going into the food, simple easy decorations fit the bill. Keeping with the traditional colors seems to always work best. Check out local craft stores for a wide variety of cheap plastic tablecloths. According to MSN Lifestyle, add plenty of light for when the sun goes down. Use tiki torches placed throughout a backyard or string white Christmas lights around a porch or deck.

Entertainment

Music is a must for any party and the fourth is no exception. Create a play list on your iPod with a mix of oldies, patriotic tunes and current hits. As always, make sure the music is appropriate for everyone there; don't just pick your favorites. Don't have an iPod? Buy or borrow compilation CD's, like a Jimmy Buffet greatest hits for a relaxed summertime vibe or a best of Motown CD. Pick music that most guests will know and enjoy. If your

crowd is mostly rock, rap or country fans cater to their preferences. Keep the music just loud enough to hear it, but low for easy conversation. MSN Lifestyle also recommends having some activities set up. Put up a volleyball net in the backyard and set out some board games on tables. Sports and games are great icebreakers for guests. Most importantly make sure to enjoy yourself; after all it is your party.



Layout design by Adam Rogers

TECHNOLOGY

How many megapixels do you have?

By: Adrienne Sabo
COPY EDITOR

More and more college students are looking to invest in a digital camera. A Best Buy sales agent said in recent months most of Best Buy's cameras were sold to young adults.

Cameras have a variety of options in prices, styles and features. Understanding the different features offered and comparing brands can be confusing. There are several features to look for in cameras. Comparison shopping before buying a camera is important.

Megapixels determine the clarity and precision of the photos

taken. Higher megapixels yield better quality photos. The sales agent from Best Buy said that most people are looking for four or five megapixels in their cameras.

A two-megapixel camera generally costs the least and the more megapixels, the higher the price. For general picture taking, look for a nice medium, anywhere between three to five megapixels.

Screen size is also important. The Best Buy sales agent said that larger screens are more intriguing for customers and they tend to sell more with larger LCD screens. A larger screen gives the con-

sumer better opportunities to look over photos and see the finer details that smaller screens wouldn't allow.

The sales agent advised consumers to check out the optical and digital zooms on cameras. If the picture is too blurry when zoomed in, look at other cameras with a better optical and digital zoom. Go to various stores and try out cameras. See how they work and get a feel for them.

The look of a camera is also important to consumers. The Best Buy sales agent said, "A lot of people are looking for slimmer cameras." Companies are responding to this by making more sleek models available. The Sony Cyber-shot 5.1 Digital Camera for \$249.99 is less than one inch thin. Its sleek design also features a 2.5 inch screen for viewing.

The sales agent recommended purchasing a warranty with the camera.

The sales agent offered some advice for first time buyers looking to invest in digital cameras. Do your

research before heading out to the stores by looking online and finding the features that you need the most. Look to spend around \$200 for a quality camera with about three to four megapixels. Go to various stores and try out cameras in your price range.

Make sure to look at the zoom and all the features offered on the cameras too.

Try the camera out in the stores and see if it feels comfortable. These are investments and should be well thought out before buying.

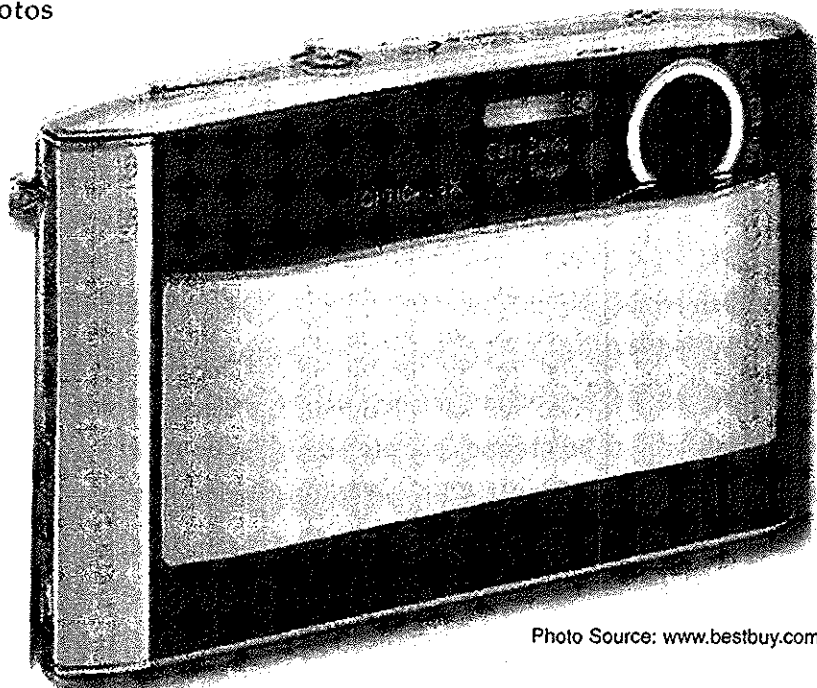


Photo Source: www.bestbuy.com

Top rated cameras

1. HP Photosmart R717 \$270
2. Cannon Powershot A520 \$200
3. Casio Exilim EX Z-750 \$380
4. Fujifilm FinePix F10 \$329
5. Fujifilm FinePix E900 \$410

Source: www.pcmworld.com