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Top high school students drawn to YSU see page 4

THE Jambor

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, July 13, 2006

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YSU

Helping college students succeed

New plan calls for harder curriculum

Program designed to help students prepare for college and work

By: Maysoun Abdelrasul
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Youngstown State University is one of the three Ohio universities that have some exemptions from Gov. Bob Taft's Ohio core plan.

The plan is designed for high school students to have a more rigorous education before attending a state university, because most colleges will not offer remedial classes. It includes four years of math and English, three years of science and social studies and two years of a foreign language.

YSU, Central State University and Shawnee State University will still offer remedial courses.

Bret Crow, assistant communications director for the Ohio Board of Regents said the only exemption YSU has is on remediation. High school students are not exempt from taking the full load of courses to enter a four-year state-funded university.

Students pay for the remedial courses but the credits are not

counted towards their degree Crow said.

Professors and administration said the remedial courses are necessary until the program is fully implemented and a community college is created.

YSU President David Sweet said the ultimate goal is to diminish remedial courses. "This is not going to occur overnight," he said, "we need this transitional area."

YSU is an open admissions institute with a large number of non-traditional students and the remedial education provided helps students develop said Bege Bowers, associate provost for Academic Programs and Planning.

Students entering the university without completing the 'core type curriculum,' would take remedial courses to further prepare them Sweet said. Reading



Gov. Bob Taft

and Study Skills Center Coordinator Karen Becker said about one-third of the incoming freshman class tested into remedial classes.

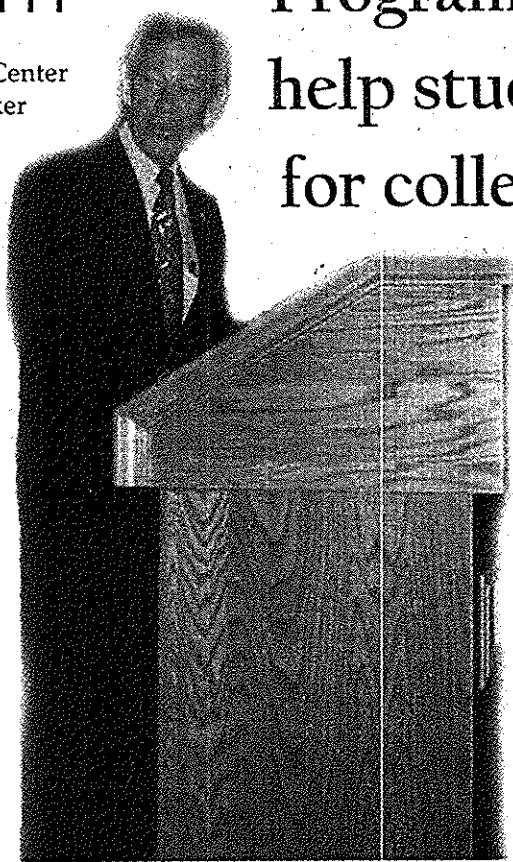
Becker said YSU needs to have these courses "because we don't have any place to send them."

In the 2005-06 school year 282 students were placed in 1510B, the basic reading and study skills class and 781 were in 1510A, the higher level course.

YSU is here to serve the community and the demand to have these classes exist she said.

Math remedial courses had approximately 1000 students in the fall semester. Richard Goldthwait, Math 1500 coordinator said the Algebra classes are important because students need Algebra for a variety of majors.

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Jambor/ Maysoun Abdelrasul

Sen. George Voinovich speaks at a press conference Friday in YSU's Planetarium.

By: Maysoun Abdelrasul
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A new program to prepare students for college and the workplace is working its way into the high school classroom.

Professional developmental programs for mathematics and science teachers received funding by two grants that originated from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The NCLB was brought forth by President George W. Bush "to ensure that all children receive a high quality education so that no child is left behind," according to the U.S. Department of Education Web site.

Sen. Voinovich came to YSU Friday to discuss the developmental programs in relation to the legislative act, Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE). PACE is designed to provide teachers with new ways and new techniques to challenge students.

Workshops will be conducted for over 800 mathematics and science teachers to help teachers provide more of a challenging education in math and science for high school students.

"We need a highly educated workforce because there is no more factory," he said.

Tom Humphries, president of the Greater Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, said America is falling behind in science and math. China and India have more people graduating in the engineering field than America.

"Not only do we have to keep up, but we have to be competitive," he said.

YSU is closely working with 47 school districts in the tri-county area. The university's connection with local school districts gives teachers an advantage on what students need to know before entering college Voinovich said.

YSU President David Sweet said in a phone interview that the primary goal is to better prepare students for their entry into the university.

FINANCE

How to make money with money

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

In the day to day bustle of a student's life planning for retirement and future financial security can seem unimportant. The future is on its way, its not too late, and never too early, to plan for financial security.



investment portfolio, try for \$25 a week into a savings account. It can seem like a lot at first, but figure out your "little bit of fat," Robson said. What Robson means is to reduce spending on luxuries that leak cash. Luxuries like a \$2 latte or bottle of water or eating out for lunch.

It's a sacrifice now, but the earlier you put away, the more you will have in the end. Starting early puts compound interest on your side, Robson said. By regularly putting money away starting at age 20 Robson said a person who starts 10 years later and puts the same amount of money will never catch up.

A savings account isn't the place to leave money. Start with diversified mutual funds or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) he said.

According to the New York Times Dictionary of Money and Investing, a mutual fund allows a group of investors to pool their money into a community pot to reach an investment goal. A mutual fund's manager invests the community money into stocks and bonds usually. An investment into a mutual fund is buying shares of the fund, thus you become a shareholder of the fund.

The NYT Dictionary defines stocks as ownership investments of public companies traded on the market. Bonds are a lending type investment traded on the market. Investors lend money to the government or a company through the purchasing of bonds, according to the NYT Dictionary.

Skimp and Save

Robson said it doesn't take massive amounts of money to start an

"Most people who play the market get beat up by the pros..."

Gary Robinson
YSU professor of finance

Diversification is key

To diversify is to spread your money across many different types of investments Robson said. Mutual funds automatically diversify an investment portfolio. Beware of the maintenance fees attached to mutual funds. "Anything more than one percent is ridiculous," Robson said.

According to Home Savings Loan Company an IRA allows individuals or married couples invest in their retirement. Traditional IRAs allow deposits of earnings to be made before taxes are taken out. Withdrawals can be made at age 59 and a half.

Roth IRAs allow you to put after-tax earnings into a Certificate of Deposit for withdrawals tax-free if the account has been held for five years and if withdrawals are made under either a condition of age greater than 59 and a half, a first home purchase, disability or death according to Home Savings.

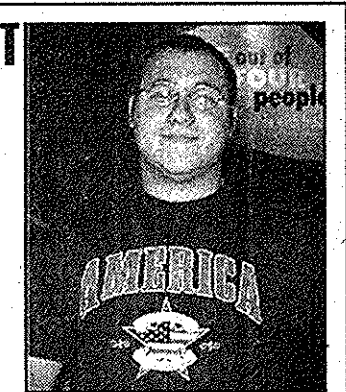
IRA's can be secured at either fixed or variable

interest rates. IRA's interest rates are below the federally-defined prime interest rate, often prime minus three, but shopping around could yield better results.

Returns on mutual funds and IRAs are modest, but safe. Robson said a sure-fire strategy to keep an investment portfolio solid is to play it safe. "Most people who play the market get beat up by the pros," if there's something with great return, its very short term, and the professionals already know about it, Robson said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ramon Ramos



Political science major

Q: What's a good investment?
A: "A good meal."

Q: Where does more of your money go?
A: "On gas and clothes."

Q: Fastest, legal way to make money.
A: "Mowing grass."

Q: What would you do if you didn't have to pay for school?
A: "Spend the extra money and buy a couple of CD's."

Q: What would you like your salary to be?
A: "A six figure plus salary."

IN TODAY'S
Jambor!

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Youngstown receives
grant to help clean up

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One professor believes we are
turning into 'Fort YSU'

Page 3

Today's Weather >> rain

81 / 66

friday: partly cloudy 86 / 61
saturday: partly cloudy 87 / 65

YSU

New faces and new changes to the YSU Board of Trustees

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

Gov. Bob Taft appointed Sudershan Garg to a full nine-year term on the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees. Garg was initially appointed in June 2005 to finish the term of the late Larry Esterly.

YSU Board of Trustees is embracing some internal changes.

Taft appoints trustees to over 300 boards in the state of Ohio, said Andy Wentz, executive assistant in the Governor's office to boards and commissions. Taft looks at the individual résumé and selects the appropriate candidate. The process is similar to applying for a job, said Wentz.

The Board of Trustees, "sets the policies the administration implements," said John Pogue, the 2006-07 chair of the Board.

John Pogue and Larry DeJane were internally nominated and elected. Pogue will serve as chair, DeJane as vice-chair for 2006-07.

"Financial concerns will continue to be a priority," especially in light of the reduction of state funds, Pogue said.

In addition to reducing costs and increasing revenue the Board will "focus on centennial celebration," Pogue said. YSU will be celebrating 100 years beginning with homecoming 2007 and concluding at spring commencement

2008. The Board will be reviewing a full list of events this fall. The theme is, "a proud past, a promising future."

The new business school is also a priority for the 2006-07 year. The business school expansion proposes to extend campus south towards downtown Youngstown. The new building may be built on the corner of Rayen Avenue and Phelps Street.

Garg's new term as a YSU trustee will end May 2015 with Pogue's expiring in 2010 and DeJane's in 2011.

Trustee meetings are open to the public and held in the Board Meeting Room in Tod Hall, dates and times are at www.ysu.edu.

YOUNGSTOWN

Youngstown receives grant

By: Jessica Silvestri
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The city of Youngstown was approved Monday to receive \$289,830 in Clean Ohio Assistance Fund (COAF). Lt. Gov. Bruce Johnson announced the grant was awarded to the City to perform an environmental assessment of the former Aeroquip Property, located on Albert Street, to determine if the property is suitable for remediation.

The property consists of a total of 8.57 acres located on the northeast edge of Youngstown near Crab Creek. Since the early 1900's, the property has been used for industrial purposes.

"This funding is designed to help communities transform former distressed sites like the Aeroquip Property into viable locations for future economic development," said Johnson, who also

serves as state development director. "The COAF is an important tool in assisting Youngstown in redeveloping property for future economic investment, which will result in the creation of good jobs in the community."

Fellow supporter of the grant, State Representative Sylvester Patton, who also sits on the State Controlling Board, said, "The State of Ohio continues to prove that it is committed to providing our local leaders with the funding they need to rehabilitate once blighted land and make it attractive for new investment."

The State Controlling Board approved the funds, which were awarded from the \$10 million COAF. Patton's assistant, Crystal Cook said, that the six member board and that an item or contract has to be petitioned for and then approved by the board.

The funds awarded must

be used for Phase I and II Environmental Assessments, brownfield redevelopment or public health projects. Projects eligible for funding are those located in situational distressed, inner distressed, distressed or labor surplus cities.

They are evaluated on economic benefit, environmental improvement, including public health benefit; appropriateness and reasonableness of the proposed project and the financial condition of the community.

This environmental assessment includes an installation of 26 shallow monitoring wells and three deep monitoring wells, 18 soil borings, 36 surface samples, a demolition survey, geophysical survey, data evaluation, modeling and report preparation. The assessment will determine the suitability of the property for remediation.

YSU

Physical therapy program growing

By: Adrienne Sabo
COPY EDITOR

The Youngstown State University department of physical therapy is transitioning its masters program to a doctorate program.

John Yemma, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, said that the college likes to continually move ahead and thinks that this will help the program grow.

Yemma said that there is a great need for physical therapy professionals and that the department has a 100 percent placement rate.

Nancy Landgraff, chair of the physical therapy department said that the program is going through the state process to switch and hopes to have the program in place next summer.

Landgraff said that this transition from masters to doctoral is a national trend and is part of the American Physical Therapy Association's vision for 2020.

The APTA vision includes having all physical therapist be doctors of physical therapy.

Landgraff agreed that physical therapy is a growing field. She said, "The last class of students all had job offers before they

graduated." There are many opportunities for employment in this field because of the aging population, diseases and accidents. "It shows great implications for a need," she said.

Applying to the program is a competitive process. Landgraff said that program will remain at three years, but the curriculum will have more credit hours in a semester. The program only admits 20 students and she said she expects it to be full. Yemma said that the program will be more rigorous because of the transition from masters to doctorate within the same three year time period.

YSU's current physical therapy program is accredited at the highest level. Yemma said he thinks this will help to draw in those who are looking to advance and help the physical therapy department grow.

News In Brief

Butler Midyear Exhibition

The Butler Institute of American Art is hosting its annual Midyear exhibition through August 27.

The free event is an annual juried painting exhibition open to any resident of the U.S. 18 or older. This year's show was judged by painter and Newsweek critic Peter Plagen. It is sponsored by Dianne B. Bernhard and the Art Spirit Foundation, and made possible in part by James and Charlotte Floyd.

Talent Show

The Pig Iron & Art Works Community Street Festival Committee is registering amateur, home-grown, younger, and senior talent to compete in its talent show on July 29, between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The all-day event will be held on North Phelps Street, downtown Youngstown, between Commerce Street and Federal Street.

Contestants, individuals, or groups, up to four, will be allowed four minutes of presentation time. For additional information or to register, call 330-747-6932 and ask for the talent show.

Casting calls

Casting calls will be held Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Bliss Hall room 4047 for a extras and lead roles in a short student film for the New York Film Academy. For additional information contact Maria Bleahu at 218-982-9085

Police Briefs

Unpaid Parking Tickets

A black Pontiac, with \$750.00 in unpaid parking tickets, was found in front of 91 Wick Oval, during a routine patrol by campus police.

When the owner saw the car being towed, he became verbally abusive and argumentative. Youngstown State University police had the car towed

M23 Fire

Youngstown Fire Department was called regarding a reported fire in a BFI dumpster in the M23 parking lot. A woman discovered the fire while she was returning Festival of the Arts property to the facilities garage.

The cause of the fire is undetermined.

CURRICULUM continued from page 1

"If we had a community college in the Mahoning Valley, most if not all of developmental programs, would be served best in a community college," he said.

A conditional admission program was put into place in the spring semester to help students who fall below a certain standard to satisfy certain requirements in college, Tom Maraffa, assistant to the president said.

Students who have a 2.0 grade point average in high school and receive a 17 or lower on the ACT would be required to take classes from an approved list and are not allowed to have more than 14 credit hours a semester he said.

"By focusing on these

students, we increase their success," he said.

This is an opportunity for students who have not been successful in the past to move forward because it would be discouraging for students not to succeed he said.

Students in this category have to sign a contract with a coordinator in the Center for Student Progress. Jonelle Beatrice, director of CSP said the students meet with their coordinator weekly to discuss how classes are going.

For the fall semester of 2006, 137 students are eligible for the program.

"It is not a punitive program in any way, it is a front load to success," she said.

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

Distributor position available beginning August 28. Must be available between 7 and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings to distribute The Jambar. Must be dependable. For additional information, contact Olga at (330)941-3094, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or stop by The Jambar office located in the basement of Fedor Hall.

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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

YSU excluded from challenging program

In the face of Gov. Bob Taft's plan Youngstown State University will continue to offer remedial courses to help students prepare for YSU's college-level classes.

Taft's plan will require higher academic performance in the form of ACT scores and GPA from college applicants. YSU will continue to be an open-access institution, in accordance with Taft's plan. As YSU keeps its tradition of open access, the student body will continue to be diverse. Not racially, but academically as well.

High school students will continue to be welcome at YSU's doors, regardless of test scores or traditional means of measurement. Lets give them a chance.

However, the students that achieve measurable success under the traditional methods may feel their efforts invalidated. It just seems that those who have tasted academic success before will meet a new breed in class.

Can anyone help but wonder if hard work at YSU, an open-access institution, will bring with it a credible degree? Of course. A challenge, like an education, is what you make it.

With YSU remaining an open-access institution all students, will have the opportunity to earn a college degree.

There are no community colleges in the area, where students can go to brush up their skills before coming to YSU, so having these courses make sense. YSU is a community college university combo. Kind of puts a damper on a student's reputation even if it is the interview that gets the job.

The Vindicator wrote, "The plan includes requiring four years of math and English, three years of science and social studies, and two years of foreign language for high school students to be admitted to all but three state-funded four-year universities, one of which would be Youngstown State University."

As it turns out two universities will be open-access, Shawnee State and Central University. Both are in areas devoid of community colleges.

With Taft's open-access exemption YSU now spans from the bottom of the barrel to the high shelves of good colleges. We continue to clamor for diversity, so we're getting it.

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

Fort YSU

Over the past few months, a private company has been installing surveillance cameras in many YSU buildings - Ward Beecher, Moser, and DeBartolo halls. Most of these cameras are on ceilings outside a lab or a computer room. They are easy to spot: a plastic dark gray half-moon on an ivory base no bigger than a good Florida orange.

No doubt surveillance cameras can have legitimate uses - e.g., protection of per-

sons and property. So, all would-be scofflaws should beware. You will be caught on film. But I have a suspicion, based on some reports, that in addition to those cameras outside labs and computer rooms, there are cameras hidden in equipment and others installed for the sole aim to monitor specific individuals. The slow but sure hand of retaliation by YSU administration against strike leaders is manifesting itself.

One ACE strike captain is already facing charges. There are reports of a faculty member caught on tape carrying out of a YSU building a ream of computer paper. And any of you who takes home a YSU pencil or pen (a potential felony) should beware, at Fort YSU somebody is always watching.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, Ph.D.

Director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center

Professor, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Where is the money going?

With all of the tuition increase instituted by YSU, then why are there not enough classes offered in the evening for students? YSU programs have required classes needed for majors that are only offered during day session; this makes it very difficult for students who have full-time jobs to receive a degree in a reasonable time span. Yet there is a tuition increase, where is the money going?

Diana Page Senior, Information Technology

Issue troubled by diversity hiring

"Student Diversity Council has not met to discuss the potential effects of such a hiring practice, nor have I got a chance during the summer break to discuss this particular matter with our now former Director for the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Mr. Myers, or Mr. Blake Director of Student Diversity. This is my opinion as President of Student Diversity Council but also as a protector, preserver, and respecter of diversity! Diversity is a word of inclusive unity, one that is supposed to unite us. I have said many times that this

campus does not need more diversity, only more understanding as to what diversity is, respecting what we already possess, encouraging more, and a dedication to ending discrimination by educating. I fear this new policy for hiring, which implies that the current faculty is not in and of itself a diverse group of people. I think the hiring practice is rooted in a wonderful and worthwhile concept; giving those who may have in the past had a difficult time getting through the current practice because of their cultural background and giving opportunities to local educators, however I fear it could open up doorways to other prob-

lems such as concentrating so much on boosting our minority faculty ratio we sacrifice standards to get there. Part of diversity is fairness and equality. I agree that the current hiring system probably needs amending, in order to allow our students the chance to benefit from those of all types of different and culturally eclectic backgrounds. This not only betters our school but our caliber of student! However would this practice ensure we do that while still keeping the high standards of our faculty or would this instill more of a divisive factor that at times plagues this campus? I consider each student diverse in his or her own special

way, no matter race, gender, creed, or color, so this should apply to faculty as well. I fear this new practice will set back the clocks of time, putting jealousy, division, and resentment where there should be cohesive educating, unity, and constructive advancement. This essentially is opening the doors to lowering our caliber of professor if put in the wrong directorial hands and this is a dangerous potential precedent we are setting. As of now I am against this policy, but encourage all parties to consider a new alternative. We need more qualified professionals, not a massive influx of diversity. Look at each of our current Professors, and you will

see the diversity you so crave! I believe the creators of the plan were trying to consider the best course of action for the student body, but although their intentions were good and honorable, the solution is less than adequate. Change is needed and I hope once SDC convenes in the Fall we can be apart of the process of that change. To serve the student in areas in which diversity is concerned is our honor, but this plan although has the students at heart will not serve the student in the best possible fashion. I urge a reconsideration!"

Joe Iesue Executive President of Student Diversity Council

Free speech and how does it work

Did you know that no other state can boast the innumerable historical contributions Ohio can—from A to Z?

For example: the flying Wright Brothers; Thomas Edison (never mind that most of Tom's inventions were made in New Jersey); and then

there's the Warner Brothers whose grand palace is now PowellTheater—and which you'd never know is one of the last three grandpalaces in Ohio of the last seven standing throughout America; unless, of course, you go in the mid-

dle of Federal Street meridian where there's a dinky plaque noting Warner's historical significance.

We've had more Miss Americas than any other state, and thanks to Alan Freed, we're the home of Rock n Roll and that 50's black music that changed the world. We tie with Virginia for producing seven presidents—unfortunately, all of ours have been Republicans—and sad as that is—heck, I'm still proud to be a Buckeye.

So, why am I now so disenchanted with my state and my city: State for putting the Republicans in the White House for a second disastrous-

time. Yet the real kick to my solar plexus came as a result of medocumenting selective ticketing by AMPCO Parking Patrol who makes a bee line toward YSU while ignoring certain downtown areas. So I take the issue to City Council and I'm told to request in writing to speak at their July 19 meeting. —I'm told this at their June meeting, which

I thought I could just walk in and speak. Come July 6, not getting a response to my June 23 request letter, I go the Clerk's Office to ask if I'll be allowed to speak. Hallelujah! Now I'm told the July meeting is a closed to the Public and I would have to wait until September.

Plus, now I'm asked: "Did you fill out a form requesting to speak?"

Reeling from this bit of disingenuous nonsense, I go speak to the Mayor. The Mayor shocks me with a hostile reception—attacking my civic pride and justice for all idealism with a most incredulous barb:

"You've got all this free time to be taking pictures—why don't you mentor kids!" And damn it all, the same cars are still ignored downtown. So why am I still proud to be a Buckeye?

Ted Williams

TECHNOLOGY

Cool tech gadgets

By: Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

In the ever-increasing world of technology, new gadgets come out every day. Whether it's for the home, work, in the car or just for sports, technology can always make life a little more convenient. Here's a sample of some of the coolest gadgets on the market.

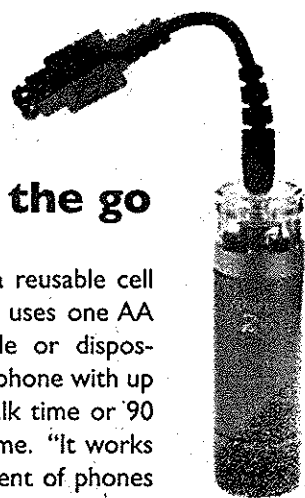
Camera-Phone with high quality pictures

The first 7-megapixel phone was introduced last March in Germany and is on its way to the Korean market. The best the states can get is the Samsung SCH-a990, a 3.2 megapixel cell phone released Monday. According to Verizon and Samsung representatives, this phone is available for service and use now. The two local Verizon stores, in Boardman and Niles, do not carry the a990. Retails for \$490.



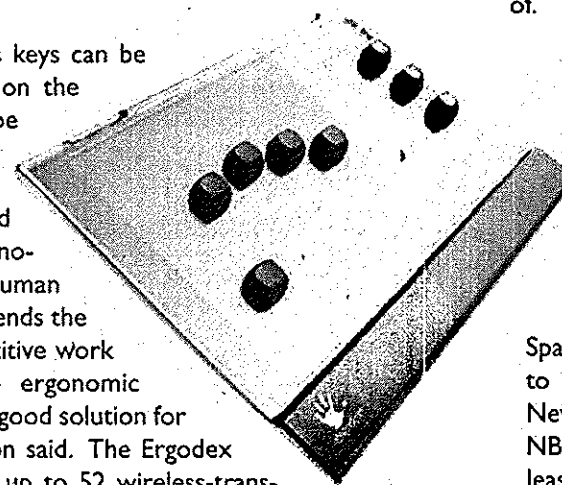
Charge your phone on the go

Charge 2 go is a reusable cell phone charger that uses one AA battery, rechargeable or disposable, provides your phone with up to 90 minutes of talk time or 90 hours of standby time. "It works with about 80 percent of phones on the market, about 250 million phones in the states," said Ben Ovadia, Vice President of Business Development for Charge 2 Go corporation. Retails for \$25.



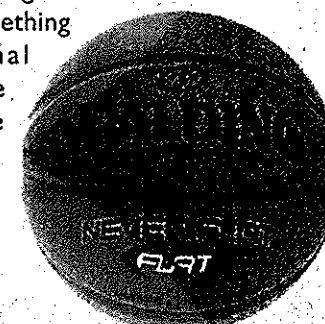
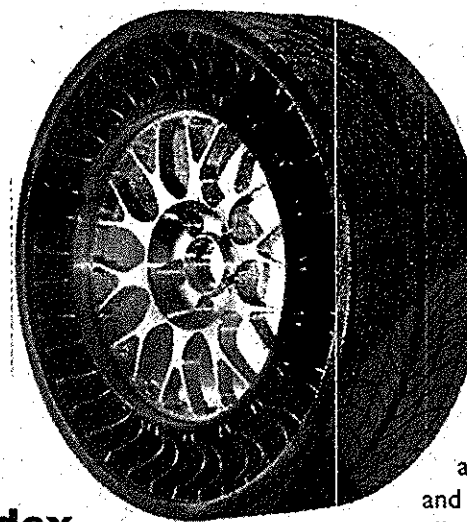
Ergodex DXI customizable keyboard.

This keyboard's keys can be placed anywhere on the pad, and can be moved at any time. John Paulson, certified professional ergonomist at the Human Solution, recommends the Ergodex for repetitive work and to decrease ergonomic injury risk. "It is a good solution for office use," Paulson said. The Ergodex lets you program up to 52 wireless-transmitter sticky-backed buttons to represent different key combinations or phrases commonly used in day-to-day work. "It can reduce hand-spread stresses," said Paulson. Retails for \$150.



A tire that never needs air

Michelin Tweel, an airless one-piece wheel/tire combo uses a reinforced rubber tread band and polyurethane spokes in place of traditional tire construction. Tweel tires, in production now, will be available for the future iBOT mobility systems, wheelchairs that can climb stairs and navigate uneven terrain. According to a January press release Michelin can adjust ride comfort as well as handling and cornering individually, something traditional tires are incapable of.



Never Flat Basketball

Spalding touts their never-flat basketballs to be "pumpless." Spalding claims its Never Flat basketball, which conforms to NBA specifications, will stay inflated for at least one year. Inflated for a year not enough? Try the Infusion basketball, a basketball with a built in micro pump.

ENTERTAINMENT



Magician John Steven Bloom, of Liberty, performed recently at the Youngstown Playhouse

Magician takes center stage at the playhouse

By: Scott Stuchora
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Youngstown Playhouse hosted the Magic and Illusion of John Steven Bloom of Liberty July 7 through July 9, 2006.

Bloom entertained a crowded auditorium with a two-hour performance that ran the gamut from magic, which he calls the small stuff, to illusions, larger fare narrated with 10 to 12 costume changes and elaborate backdrops.

John Holt, managing director of the Youngstown Playhouse said, "I was initially intrigued by some of [Bloom's] descriptions, but he rivals anything I have ever seen."

Bloom's audience was compelled for something different than a conventional evening of sitcoms and ballgames.

Pat Mariani of Austintown said, "I particularly like magic shows and I was interested in bringing my grandson to see one."

Christine Madick of Boardman concurs.

Madick said, "I just thought it would be fun for the kids. Its something different to do."

Bloom's performance was peppered with audi-

ence participation, often comedic.

Youngstown State University students join in on the magic fun.

YSU student, Rachael Madden, was one such participant. Madden said, "It was very fun. The magician made me and my daughter feel very welcome onstage."

For Bloom magic is a family affair. His wife, Chance, whom he met in a coffin during a maintenance check at a Halloween show, is his magical assistant. Their daughter, Victoria, 5, is a magical understudy. Bloom's performance even boasted a cameo by a less-than-thrilled Isabella Riley Bloom, born on June 16, 2005.

Bloom levitated his wife. He placed her in a box and impaled it with swords. His daughter, Victoria appeared and disappeared, and reappeared throughout the show and assisted with illusions. But for his finale, Bloom actually made it snow in the entire playhouse auditorium.

Bloom said, "Magic is live theatre and anything can happen."

Anthony Delmont, 11, of Austintown said, "I really liked it when he would show us the calendar and

fold it up and pull out stuff that was in the pictures. Then the pictures were missing whatever he pulled out. I thought the tricks were amazing"

But the real crowd pleasers were the illusions. Bloom became intrigued with magic and illusion when he saw a variety show in Chicago. He wanted to know how it worked and got caught lurking around backstage. He asked for a phone number, leading to an apprenticeship with master illusionist Craig Dickens.

He has since achieved international acclaim for his magical performances. He appeared on television and performed in Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding concert with a slew of other rock legends.

Bloom said, "That was, in a word, surreal. When you meet him, he acts like you've been buddies forever. Then he turns into the character Alice Cooper, and he talks about Alice in third person. He's very interesting and intelligent."

If you missed the performance, not to worry.

Holt said, "He and I are quietly talking about him being a regular on our playhouse stage."

YSU

Summer honors institute draws top high school students to YSU

By: Adrienne Sabo
COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University is attracting top-notch students this summer.

Area high school students are attending the Summer Honors Institute at Youngstown State University through July 21.

Students enrolled have previously been identified as gifted and talented and can attend one of the two, one-week sessions at YSU. Students are eligible for enrollment for only two years, after their freshman year and after their sophomore year of high school.

Marianne Dove, director of the Summer Honors Institute, secured a \$100,000 state grant for this year's institute. The grant from the Ohio Department of Education must be reapplied for every year.

Dove said that the program is funded by this grant and through contributions from the university. These contributions include use of the YSU facilities, labs and rooms, events management and many other departments across campus.

Dove said, "It's a lot of people doing a lot of work."

YSU currently holds the largest institute in Ohio, with over 250 students attending during the two weeks.

Dove said that she tries to develop a curriculum that includes courses a student would never take in high school. She said, "Curriculum design is really important to me."

Students are able to choose from a variety of classes. From crime scene investigation to mythology to model rockets and potato canons. The classes span a wide spectrum of educational topics.

The institute utilizes instructors from the university and area educators. Dove said that they develop the courses and then find distinguished university professors and recognized local teachers who are the best in their field.

The classes provide the students with hands on learning experiences and an



Jambar/ Adrienne Sabo

ABOVE: Summer Honors Institute students practicing performance poetry in the Spotlight Theatre.

RIGHT: Institute instructor, Donna Downie acting for her students.



Jambar/ Adrienne Sabo

opportunity to take classes that are not normally offered in high school curriculum.

Sharyn Fees, program administrator said that many of the students come from the tri-county area.

The institute, now in its 19th year began as the Governor's Summer Honors Institute to help address the issue of providing services for gifted and talented students. Since Ohio does not mandate services for gifted and talented services it is up to the school districts to decide.

Dove said that at the end of every session students request that the program continues throughout high school and usually give the program high marks.