

Have you knowingly solicited funds or other things of Terrorist Exclusion List?  
 Yes  No

Bob Mackey is a terrorist? see page 4



South Park censorship? see page 4

# THE JAMBAR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

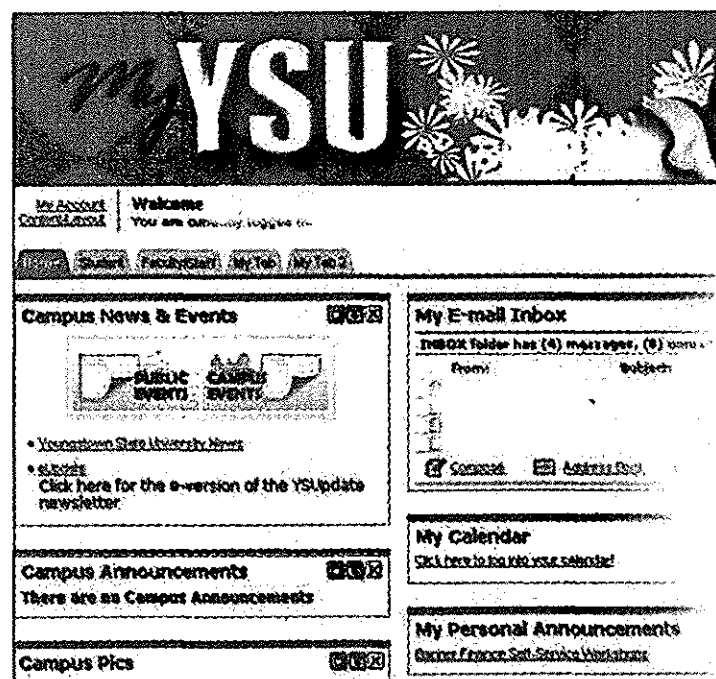
Thursday, July 20, 2006

www.thejambar.com

VOL. 88 NO. 73

YSU

## E-mail migrates to MyYSU portal



By: Jessica Silvestri  
 JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Youngstown State University's faculty, staff, and student e-mail accounts are being switched to the new MyYSU e-mail system over the summer. By the beginning of the fall semester, all accounts should be migrated.

YSU webmaster, Bob Tupaj, is chair of the team implementing the new MyYSU portal.

He said, "The portal will serve as a central hub for the university, and all applications will be easily accessible. Instead of logging on multiple times for the several applications used at the Web site, one will only have to log in

once." The portal will greatly enhance internal communications on campus, including a new electronic calendar, group communications tools and campus announcements.

"The portal will provide a new way for campus announcements to get to the YSU community," said Tupaj. The portal system will replace the banner system. There will also be a way to target the announcements. Instead of the announcements going to all mail accounts, the portal provides a way to only send the announcements to certain groups such as faculty or Greek organizations.

"MyYSU will also provide customized access to Web sites and online

application through an array of different channels," said Tupaj. The e-mail system through MyYSU will provide additional storage space and quicker response times and will integrate with the other portal application, he added.

Amber Roden, a junior special education major said, "So far the portal appears to be beneficial to YSU." Roden, a second year peer assistant at the Center for Student Progress, was one of the select few who was able to try out the portal before stage one this fall. The Peer Assistants and Student Government were two groups chosen to participate in the trial run. "I

think the portal will be a very convenient way for professors to communicate with their students effectively," Roden said.

According to the YSUupdate, information on specific days and times when the e-mail migration will take place will be circulated throughout the campus over the summer.

Questions can be answered through the Tech Desk at ext. 1595 or [techdesk@ysu.edu](mailto:techdesk@ysu.edu). Information on MyYSU can be found at <http://www.ysu.edu/portal/>.

"Our goal is to have everyone migrated to the new e-mail by the start of the fall semester on August 28," said Tupaj. E-mails have already begun to be migrated.

MyYSU will serve as a central hub for online applications. Student e-mail accounts should be switched over by the start of the fall semester.

YSU

## STEMM academy helps students explore medicine and engineering

By: Adrienne Sabo  
 COPY EDITOR

High school students are exploring the fields of medicine and engineering during a two-week program at Youngstown State University and Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine.

The Science Technology Engineering Mathematics and Medicine Careers Academy began its first year Monday with 14 students.

Yvonne Mathis, director of diversity and multicultural affairs at NEOUCOM, said that students have an opportunity to participate in hands on activities in engineering and medicine.

Mathis said the goal of the STEMM academy is to, "make sure they understand the rigors involved with medicine and engineering and prepare them for a career."

Students participate in the two-week summer program at YSU and NEOUCOM and continue to meet

once every three months beginning in September.

The academy is a joint effort between YSU, NEOUCOM and the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the college of engineering and technology said that students are paired with a professional mentor in their field of interest throughout the rest of the year.

The program is geared toward minority and underrepresented students who are interested in careers in engineering and medicine.

Mathis said that students who participate in this program will have an advantage over others because they are working with professors at a university and a medical school that many others students will not have the chance to until they begin college.

Mathis said that the ultimate goal of the academy is to have students enroll in a program at YSU and NEOUCOM. She said, "We

have many academically talented students in the area and we are losing them to other schools."

Even if students do not enroll at YSU or NEOUCOM at least they are prepared to enroll at a university, Mathis said.

Harry Christman, director of workforce development education and training at the Regional Chamber said that one of the goals is to keep these students in northeast Ohio.

The funding for the program began with Reid Dulberger from the Regional Chamber and a request he put in to Rep. Tim Ryan.

The grants cover the costs of the program and enable the academy to be free for the students.

Students enrolled in the program come from Mahoning and Trumbull counties and submitted an application including an essay, recommendations, expressed interest in the field of engineering and medicine and identified as academically talented.

### JAMBAR STAFF

### New staff and more stories for The Jambar in the fall

This is the last Jambar issue for the summer. Our next issue will be published Aug. 28, the first day of the fall semester followed by the second issue on Thursday Aug. 31. Issues will be published every Tuesday and Thursday for the remainder of the semester.

We have a new larger staff this year and the news-

paper will cover more stories that our readers want to know about. We encourage new fresh ideas and want to hear from our readers. The Jambar's e-mail address is [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com). Tell us what you want to know and our job is to provide you with that information.

### Jambar staff 2006 - 07

Maysoon Abdelrasul- Editor-in-Chief  
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 Cristina Cala- Copy Editor  
 Cortney Corder-Advertising/ Sales Manager  
 Adrienne Sabo-Assistant News Editor  
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 Laura Neely-General Assignment Reporter  
 Ashley Tate-General Assignment Reporter

Look for the next edition of **The Jambar** on August 28

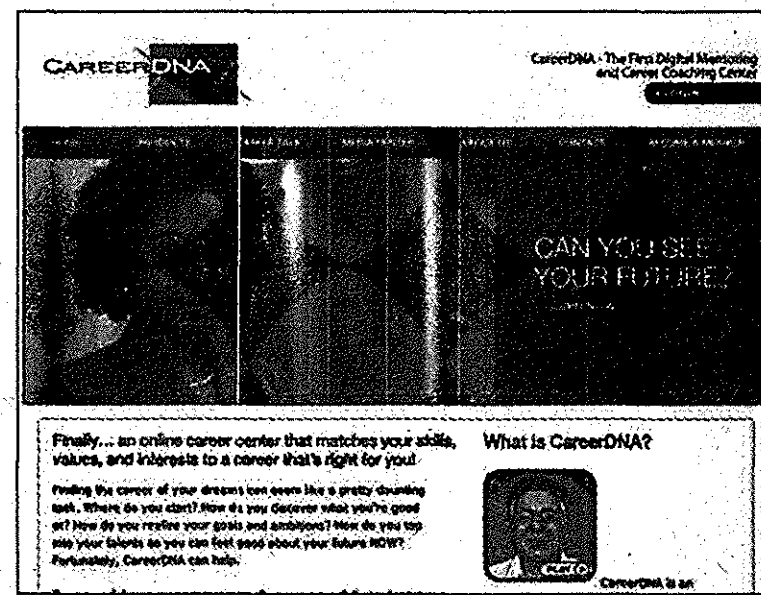


Image Source: www.careerdna.net

## Find direction with career DNA

By: Jamie Livengood (MCT)/  
 Jambar Staff

There are online services that can help college students find the perfect date, the perfect car and the perfect apartment. Now there is CareerDNA (at [www.careerdna.net](http://www.careerdna.net)), a new site that can help match students to their perfect career.

A CareerDNA poll shows that 80 percent of graduates do not have solid job prospects, and of those that do, nearly half are not confident about their career choices. CareerDNA's goal is not to find graduates just any job, but a job they will love.

The company says to think of the service "as the match.com for your career."

CareerDNA works by using online talent and career assessment tests to find students the jobs that best suit their particular talents and interests. The tests were developed by founder Dr. Brian A. Schwartz, who has 30 years of experience in career counseling.

The career coaching service can be found at [www.careerdna.net](http://www.careerdna.net) and costs less than \$50.

Luckily there are services here at Youngstown State University to assist students in the search for a career.

The Career and Counseling

Center in Jones Hall can help. Bernie Cummins, director of the career and counseling center said that there are free services on campus for students to use.

The center offers a web-based program for students to use to take interest inventory and skills assessments. After taking the assessments students can sit down with a counselor and figure out what direction to go.

Cummins said, "Each student has their own set of skills and values and we work with students that want to explore their options."

Over 800 students worked through the program last year.

Cummins said that a lot of students enter college and have a career in mind, but most of the time it is based off of a limited pool of information. He said that five out of six college students will change their major.

While there are many tests out there to aid in the search for the perfect career, Cummins said that there is nothing that will give students one answer and keep in mind that there are a number of different career sets for different people.

Students can stop by the Career and Counseling Center to obtain access to the web-based program or stop by their office in Jones Hall for more help.

IN TODAY'S  
**Jambar!**

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YSU students remember Pink Floyd  
 founder Syd Barrett.

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Cameras are here to protect  
 us according to student.

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Saturday: rain 78 / 57

## YSU

## Pink Floyd founder remembered

By: Scott Suchora  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Roger "Syd" Barrett, the erratic Pink Floyd co-founder died July 7 at his home in Cambridgeshire, England. He was 60.

In a statement released by the band, Richard Wright said, "The band are very naturally upset and sad to hear of Syd Barrett's death. Syd was the guiding light of the early band line-up and leaves a legacy which continues to inspire."

Youngstown State University Professor Julia Gergits said she remembers Barrett from her younger years.

"I liked Syd's early strange stuff a lot. I blew out a couple sets of speakers listening to it. It was fun," she said.

Barrett died of cancer and he suffered from diabetes for years. YSU students remember Barrett's mental instability exacerbated by LSD, which he used daily in 1967.

YSU English alumni Aubrey Fowler said, "I was saddened because his was a unique voice snuffed out before its time in terms of doing too many drugs."

YSU student Rachael Madde said, "Its not like it's a secret that drugs are bad for you, but try to name an artist who wasn't

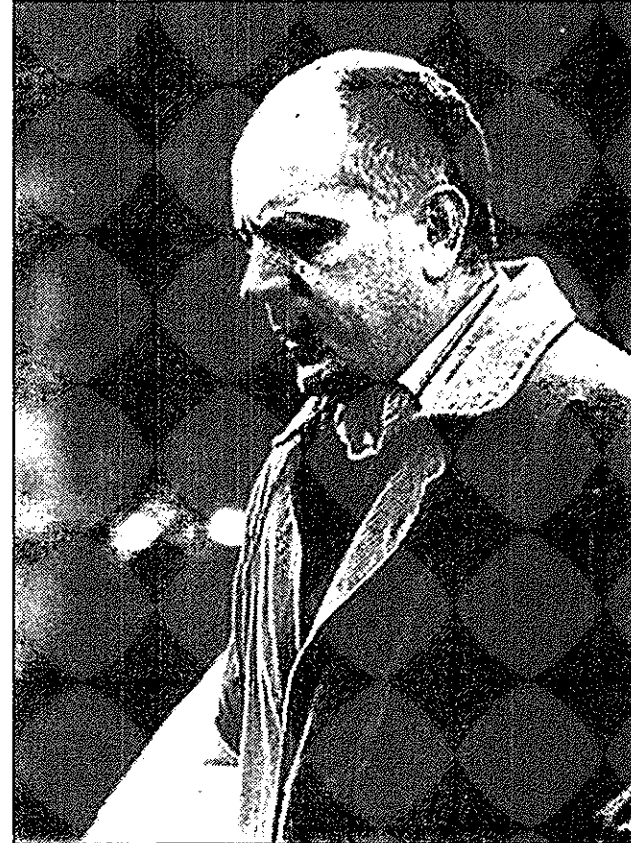


Image source: www.sydbarrett.net  
Syd Barrett, Pink Floyd co-founder, died July 7 at his home in Cambridgeshire, England. He was 60.

inspired by them. I wonder if the Beatles would be the Beatles without the drugs."

According to sydbarrett.com, Barrett named Pink Floyd, which he took from a blues album he owned involving two obscure musicians known as Pink Anderson and Floyd Council.

Barrett founded a psychedelic Pink Floyd, along with bassist Roger Waters, keyboardist Richard Wright, and drummer Nick Mason. Barrett wrote and

sang the songs and played guitar.

Barrett quit in 1967 and was replaced by lead guitarist David Gilmour, but he continued to instigate Pink Floyd. "Dark Side of the Moon," the 1973 concept album about insanity, spent a record 741 consecutive weeks on the Billboard 200, was inspired by Barrett. Pink Floyd opens every set with "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," in tribute to Barrett.

## YSU

## Camp gives teachers hands on experience in MST

By: Adrienne Sabo  
COPY EDITOR

Area teachers are getting a crash course in Materials Science Technology all week at Youngstown State University.

Teachers will get hands on experiences in MST to take back to their schools and apply it to their curriculum.

The program was developed to help prepare students for the new Materials program at YSU.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the college of engineering and technology said that hopefully the teachers will go back to the schools and share what they have learned in their classrooms.

Hirtzel said that teachers have an opportunity to utilize tools throughout the week that many would never have an opportunity to use and attributes that to the \$500,000 Rep. Tim Ryan secured in the fall of 2002.

The one-week camp, now in its second year provides experiences with metals, polymers, composites and ceramics.

The program is geared to show teachers how MST can be used to involve students

in project based course work and excite them in the engineering field.

Robert McCoy, professor of mechanical and industrial engineering said that teachers will learn small experiments they can do in their class.

The program began two years ago after Rhonda Williamson, vice chair of the Warren chapter of the American Society of Metals contacted McCoy about starting a program at YSU.

McCoy said, "It's a win-win situation, teachers receive educational units and students learn."

Throughout the week teachers will tour the YSU engineering department, the Labor and Industry Museum, Materials Research Laboratories Inc. and V&M Star Steel.

Classes throughout the week include, solids, 3-D modeling, corrosion, and ceramics and glass.

McCoy said that they hope to continue the program next year if funding continues. The program is free for participants and is funded by the ASM International and V&M Star Steel.

## YSU

## Upward Bound motivates students

By: Emery Boyle-Scott  
NEWS EDITOR

Every summer students from area high schools have the opportunity to taste college life.

Upward Bound, an educational outreach program, is designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Youngstown State University's Upward Bound program provides instruction in a variety of academic classes during the school year, as well as the summer.

During the summer, Upward Bound students have the option of partici-

pating in a residential program on the YSU campus. Upward Bound Director, Jennifer Roller said, "the whole purpose in the summer is to simulate college life." Students live on campus in the residence halls for six weeks from June 29 to July 27. Students participate in four hours of composition, literature, math, laboratory sciences and either Spanish or French classes.

It is about academics, but the idea is to have well-rounded students, Roller said. Summer activities include not only academics, but the lighter side of life as well.

At least once a week they have a movie night, cultural night and students go out to dinner. Roller said. Students also have the opportunity to participate in intramural sports, take advantage of the swimming pool and the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center.

The Upward Bound program also gives high school students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the YSU campus. Upward Bound is a good opportunity for young people to network with different aspects of YSU, so if they choose to attend YSU they feel more comfortable Roller said.

## News In Brief

## Festival

The Pig Iron Community Street Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 29 on North Phelps Street in downtown Youngstown.

The festival will include poetry readings, music, an artist's bazaar, a talent show, exhibits and a book sale.

## Auditions

The Youngstown Playhouse will hold audition for On Golden Pond August 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. in the Moyer Room at the Youngstown Playhouse. The two title roles are filled, but casting is continuing for two men, one woman and one boy.

For additional information contact John Holt at 330-788-8739.

## Vocal Clinic

The Dana School of Music will host the ninth annual Dana Vocal Performance Clinic July 28 through August 4.

The clinic is open to high school singers and incoming YSU voice majors! A free public concert is scheduled for August 2 and 4. The clinic costs \$180 and scholarships are available. Room and board is additional. For more information contact Dr. Misook Yun at 330-941-3644 or e-mail at danavocalclinic@hotmail.com

## Police Briefs

## Warrant arrest

Youngstown State University police were notified on July 11 of a sick female on the corner of Wick and Rayen.

The female was spitting on the sidewalk when she was approached by YSU police. Upon a check of records, she was found to have a warrant for drug paraphernalia and the warrant was confirmed via MCSO Records. She was arrested and transported to the Mahoning County Justice Center.

## Taco Bell fight

On July 13 YSU police were called to a large fight on 5th avenue in front of Taco Bell.

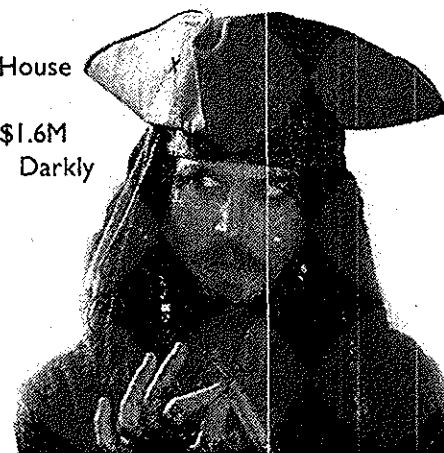
According to the police report, YSU and YPD units were dispatched to the scene, and an ambulance was immediately requested. A female was laying on the ground having a seizure. Rural Metro arrived and transported the victim to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for treatment.

## New Releases for July 21

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)  
Monster House (PG)  
Lady in the Water (PG-13)  
Clerks II (R)

## Top 10 Movies at the Box Office

1. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest \$62.3M
2. Little Man \$21.6M
3. You, Me and Dupree \$21.5M
4. Superman Returns \$12.2M
5. The Devil Wears Prada \$10.3M
6. Cars \$7.8M
7. Click \$7.2M
8. The Lake House \$1.6M
9. Nacho Libre \$1.6M
10. A Scanner Darkly \$1.2M



Join  
The Jambar  
Fall Semester!

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.

## 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](http://www.halejobs.com)

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**PART-TIME CLERK-** Downtown law firm seeks detail oriented individual with good telephone skills & working knowledge of general office equipment for entry level position. Duties include filing & running errands in downtown area. Please call Ssan at 330-744-0247 to schedule and interview.

## 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.

Brand New 2 bedroom apartments, one block from YSU. Available Fall Semester. Rent includes all utilities and cable/Internet. Call now to reserve your new 2 bedroom apartment. (330)720-0964

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## Miscellaneous

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

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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

## Learn from your mistakes

Americans are in danger. Americans are in need of help. But yet again, it takes America too much time to provide the help our fellow citizens in need.

There are over 25,000 American citizens in Lebanon—a country that has been under attack for a week now. It is America's duty to help its citizens evacuate before they get hurt. State Department and Pentagon officials said they expect to evacuate 2,400 by today. That leaves 22,600 citizens left. Anybody can do that math because there is not much difference.

The problem is why does it take so long for the government to help its own citizens?

Understandably it is a danger zone, and careful thought and planning are needed, but by the time America is done thinking, more people will die.

The saying is "everybody needs to learn from their mistakes." Well, after Hurricane Katrina and the delayed response time from the government, America should have learned by now.

What came out of the delayed response was an apology. A sincere apology by the President of the United States, "To the extent that the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take full responsibility."

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. In this case, words will not help either. Action was and is the only thing that can help.

America, have you not seen enough blood that would make you vomit or at the very least make you work faster? It is enough that Lebanese children are suffering but it makes it even worse when American children in Lebanon are suffering just by watching these kids and knowing that it could happen to them.

America is very fast in keeping up the war in Iraq, but it seems that when our own citizens are in danger, America moves slow.

A headline for a CNN article reads: U.S. family: Get us out of Lebanon. The article explains how families are crying out to the U.S. for help. America needs to respond quicker to these cries before they stop. The cries will stop when the hope and lives are gone.

*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.

## NEWS ITEM: CELL PHONES THAT WILL CAPTURE ODORS AND REPLAY THEM BACK LATER



Cartoon courtesy of MCT Campus

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Cameras are here to protect us

I am glad for the summer months. Warmer weather, a lesser workload, pleasant walks to summer classes instead of shivering drudgeries. However what I am most grateful for is that a man I respect for his criticism and skepticism did not state what he stated during the school year. Dr. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez is an upstanding, scholarly gentleman who has tirelessly worked for equality, and I hope also that his actions in his mind have been for the betterment of the YSU student. Although I have almost never agreed with Dr. Palmer-Fernandez, most especially politically, I respect his right to stand up and say what others are at times too afraid to state, even though by not saying it they build hatred and division that goes unchecked. Yet I feel the recent article has gone too far. Recently during the Spring 2006 academic term I had my cell phone stolen taking from me my work, family, friends, and school phone numbers crippling my work schedule, and yes a social life. This phenomenon is not a new or isolated incident. Theft, fights, disagreements are all commonplace unfortunately at universities across America. Life under strain and stress builds up; causing many

situations to occur that at other times would not, seemingly allowing even scrupulous members of society to become desperate or problematic. I am all for holding the administration at YSU accountable for actions, just as I would be for anyone on this campus. We live in a society that demands results, and success and I do not think we should do anything less than demand that from the upstanding administration here on our own campus. With all due respect to a man who has proven his opinion will stand loud over the clamor of disagreement and thus earned my respect, I must protest this recent attack as seemingly too far and too outlandish. My fellow students, your security is most important; from our ever present police force, to increased security cameras, to many other security measures, and the more that will probably come sometime in the future; all are there to protect you the student, and yes even the faculty from danger or potential problems acting not only as silent witness but also as a deterrent. YSU, whether we like it or not, has a reputation because of the golden days of this town as well as the increased crime rate when the steel mills vanished leaving behind what is commonly referred to as the rust belt and it is our job to distill that image. These cameras I believe are to help us protect what is most precious to us,

and I do not think that is the revenge against a Union. Unions have proven immensely important to the history of American business and public welfare, and I admire Dr. Palmer-Fernandez's allegiance and loyalty to Unions, however sometimes we must consider the interests of the student first, then worry about ourselves later and I doubt whether such a costly venture would be instituted for just a spitting competition. Whether it is a cell phone, money, or bodily harm, these cameras are necessary to help YSU protect YSU, and its student. I hope that instead of both sides of the STRIKE debate being on opposite fences you hear the student's call to reconcile and put the former struggles behind you and become the adults you are trying to teach your students to be! If we do not we will not excel as a university and we cannot solve problems that need to be solved. Be ever vigilant. I encourage more debate, for only by hearing a constructive reverse opinion can we truly come about a compromise. You attract more bees with honey than you do with vinegar my family always told me, and I hope we can put at least some balm upon the wounds of the past to attract not only more students but to better ourselves as human beings!

Joe Iesue

#### I wish I was making this up

It appears American history has come full circle yet again. What did we learn from the cold war? What did we learn from the first world war? We have learned nothing.

"This form serves as a declaration of the provision of material assistance to a terrorist organization or organization that supports terrorism as identified by the U.S. Department of State Terrorist Exclusion List."

"Any answer of 'yes' to any question, or the failure to answer 'no' to any question on this declaration shall serve as a disclosure that material assistance to an organization identified on the U.S. Department of State Terrorist

Exclusion List has been provided."

"Material support or resources" means currency, payment instruments, other financial securities, funds, transfer of funds, and financial services that are in excess of one hundred dollars, as well as communication, lodging, training, safe houses, false documentation or identification, communication equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials."

I wish I was making this up. This is the paper, word for word, that you are now forced to sign when trying to get a job for the government.

Have you ever picked up a hitch hiker? Have you ever let someone use your bathroom?

Have you ever given someone money? Ever let a stranger borrow your cell phone to make a quick call? If you've done any of this you are no longer eligible for a government job.

I am not exaggerating at all. The names on the Terrorist Exclusion List are irrelevant. The list is subject to change at anytime. When the list does change your signature is "grandfathered" to the new list.

What group of people were responsible for the snipers and bombers at the abortion clinics in the US? Well they associated themselves with religion. Lets put religion on the list. Fire all the Christians and the Jews. Imagine the president making a connection like this. It's really not hard if you try.

After that who knows. Any group could go on the list. The

vice president proposed a one percent policy of organizations. If any organization had a one percent or more chance of being a threat to national security in any way they were to be stopped. Wouldn't that include every political dissenter? I can almost hear homeland security books stomping up my stairs and breaking down the door.

The world as we know it is over. Welcome to the 2nd reign of domestic governmental terrorism. Keep the people scared and reliant on you for security and they will beg you to rape them.

When they break down your front door, how you gonna come?

With your hands on your head.

Or on the trigger of a gun. - The Clash

Andrew Edwards

COMMENTARY

## I am a terrorist And I hate your freedom

By: Bob Mackey  
COLUMNIST

Guys, I'm pretty embarrassed, but I just have to get this off of my chest: I'm a terrorist.

I know most of you saw it coming. Those of you who didn't have obviously missed the thousands of secret, subversive messages I slip into nearly every sentence of my writing. My confession is due to a brilliant move by Ohio politicians which will no doubt end the constant acts of terrorism that have made our humble state into a powder keg of anti-American violence. After all, if you want to cripple a country, what do you take out first? The heart. And what is Ohio shaped like? Well it kind of looks like the end of a shovel, but you understand where I'm going with this.

The reason I'm coming clean today is because of the new "Declaration Regarding Material Assistance/Nonassistance to a Terrorist Organization" I have been asked to sign. (This form was initially titled the "Uncle Sam Puts His Weiner in the Ear of the 5th Amendment" form before politicians realized this upset those offended by the genitalia of historical figures). If you haven't heard of this form, or haven't yet been threatened with job termination (because of your failure to sign it), here's the gist of it:

Two, four, six, eight, what do you appreciate?

AMERICA

TERRORISM

I was having a pretty good time being anti-American and everything, until this

form was in my scheming, terry hands. It was like kryptonite to Superman, except not nearly as boring. I mean, as a terrorist, I wished for nothing except the violent overthrow of the American government. But lie to my superiors? No way! This is unthinkable to me, and no American would ever lie to their superiors, unless to call in sick, or maybe if they're hung over, or if there's a baseball game they want to go to in the afternoon or something like that. This campaign of justice has obviously targeted what we terrorists are known best for: Not our cut-throat ruthlessness, but our guilty consciences.

But even though I was having a hell of a time deciding whether or not to lie, it dawned on me that if I didn't sign it at all, even if I lost my job I could still be terrifying and the government wouldn't know a damn thing about it. This seemed like a good idea until I read this section of the Ohio Patriot Act:

... the failure to answer "no" to any question, on a declaration of material assistance/nonassistance an agency provides pursuant to this section shall serve for purposes of this section as a disclosure that the applicant has provided material assistance to an organization listed on the terrorist exclusion list.

Even though I was excited that the government was slowly getting rid of due process and that "innocent until proven guilty crap" (because that would be an awesome police state for my perfect TerrorTown) shock and horror attacked me in alternating bursts when I realized that

the government was just going to assume I was a terrorist until I told them that this was, in fact, not true. But it was! So before the "not a murderer," "not a rapist," and "not a Democrat" forms could come in, I swallowed my terrorist-style chewing gum and checked yes after yes on that infernal piece of paper.

...And I was doing such a good job hiding this from everyone, too. If only they had known they just had to come out and ask me if I was a terrorist, I would have folded like a deck chair long ago. But it's clear that the government is on the ball with this stuff. After all, these forms don't go out to just anybody; it's mainly students and non-union campus workers that have to fill them out and recite the Pledge of Allegiance backwards while walking on a straight line (it's called the freedom sobriety test). Living in Youngstown, I'm aware that unions give mortal men almost godlike superpowers, so these people must be immune to any type of terrorism. And students obviously have the most money to throw around; just last Friday my grad student friend invited me over to smash diamonds with hammers. For terrorism.

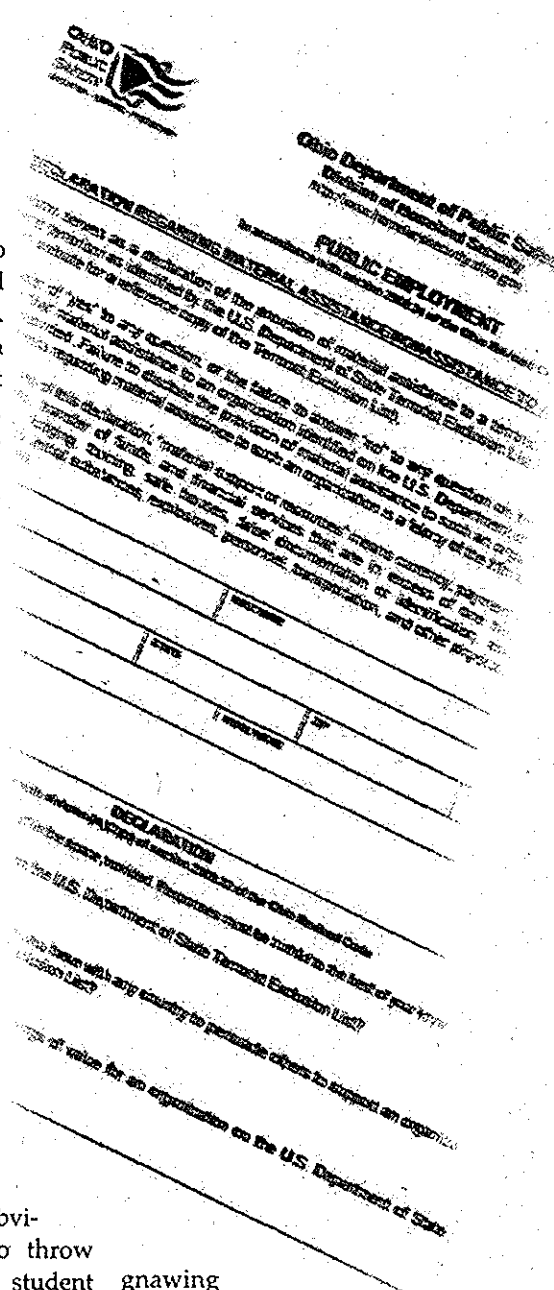
So what were my crimes? For the past five years I have been getting gas from a station that employs men with olive complexions and jet-black hair who at times speak a language that sounds nothing like English (crazy, I know). I was a little suspicious of these characters after September 11th, but when they hung an American flag from the awning I thought, "Hey, these guys are alright and I guess they don't want me to explode after all!" But it's always been

gnawing at the back of my mind that maybe they DO

want me to explode, and the fact that they have clearly not posted the "not a terrorist" forms next to the many different kinds of Slim Jims leads me to believe that they have something to hide besides the new "Mango Madness" flavor of the beef treat. And my suspicions of them only lead me to doubt myself and my love of falafel, beards, and Microsoft Flight Simulator. The writing was on the wall in a distinctly anti-American color, like chartreuse.

It's sad really. But I guess that's just one less "not a terrorist" form for politicians to beam over down at City Hall. Sorry, everyone.

Bob Mackey says, "Constitution, Schmonstitution." His blog can be found at <http://www.bobservo.com>.



**Two, four, six, eight, what do you appreciate?**

**America**

**Terrorism**

**Check one please**

ENTERTAINMENT

## No pity for South Park

By: Ed Bark  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Heralded by a Comedy Central news release that childishly spews an explosive in its headline, "South Park" turns 10 this fall without really growing up.

Its foul-their-nests fourth-graders, now roughly the same age as the show, continue to vex the suits at the network's mighty corporate parent, Viacom. Creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker, now comfortably rich, remain unbowed if a little bruised.

"This is 'South Park.' And we absolutely rip on everyone in really horrible, terrible ways," Parker matter-of-factly told TV critics Thursday.

Pish-tush, it hasn't been smooth going lately. November's "Trapped in the Closet" episode, which roasted Tom Cruise and Scientology, had been removed from "South Park's" regular repeat schedule during buildup to the star's "Mission: Impossible III," a Paramount film owned by Viacom. In April, Comedy

Central refused to let "South Park" show an image of the Islamic prophet Muhammad for fear of possibly violent reprisal.

The Cruise episode, which recently received an Emmy nomination, will get an encore Wednesday. Comedy Central announced this week. But Muhammad is still off limits, despite Parker's reminder that the network has been repeating a 2002 episode that depicts the prophet as a superhero who can turn into a beaver.

"I think history might show we overreacted," Comedy Central president Doug Herzog said of the latter-day Muhammad embargo. "But we can live with that."

Actually, the living is quite easy for Parker and Stone, whose show has generated a wealth of profitable merchandise from plush toys to wallpaper.

In October, they'll cash in again with "South Park the Hits: Volume 1," a collection of 10 favorite episodes, including "Trapped in the Closet." Fans also can feast on the likes of "Red Hot

Catholic Love" and "Stupid Spoiled Whore Video Playset," the show's tribute to Paris Hilton.

Stone said "South Park" doesn't actively court controversy or publicity. The idea is to throw an episode together in just a week's time and then simply move on to the next one without comment. Otherwise, "You start to get that Tom Cruise stink on you, know what I mean?" he said.

Still, Scientology is "like a whole field of flowers to run around in for comedians," Stone said.

But hardly anyone dares to do so because "people don't want to die," Parker added.

The two also have had a good deal of fun twitting "Family Guy," which they despise despite its parallel popularity in the edgy cartoon universe.

"The day after that (Family Guy) episode ended, we got flowers from 'The Simpsons,'" Parker

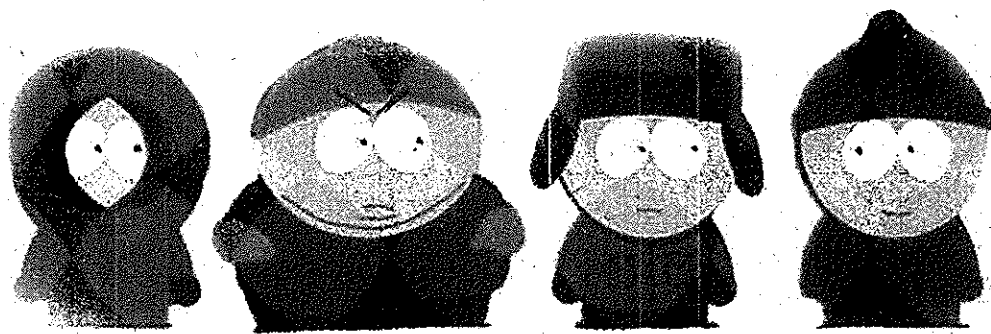


image courtesy of MCT Campus

said. "We got calls from 'King of the Hill' saying we were doing God's work. It's not just our opinion."

All in all then, it's still a pretty wonderful life for two arrested adolescents who probably could buy and sell Rhode Island at this point. After the session, Stone conceded the obvious: "We've had the most amazing creative freedom of all time."

"Do you guys remember the first time your mom posed nude?"

So went A&E's introduction to Gene Simmons' "Family Jewels" (Aug. 7), a new reality series starring the tongue-flaunting Kiss rocker, former Playboy

Playmate of the Year Shannon Tweed and their two children, Nick and Sophie.

It's similar in concept to "The Osbournes," except that Simmons can still string sentences together and has been happily unmarried to Tweed for 23 years.

He promotes himself as a man's man who rules his roost and will cut his kids out of their inheritance if they dare to defy him. In his view, a parent must be a tyrant, not a pal.

"I don't care what the rules are," Simmons, 56, said. "I prefer to (urinate) on the ground like an animal claiming its territory."

ick, 17, didn't seem at all terrorized, good-naturedly ribbing his dad as

the star of a show that will show him to be "good and evil and a little dumb."

Simmons claims to have bedded 4,600 women and intends to sustain his swordsman image. But Tweed said he'd "be missing a limb" if she ever caught him being unfaithful. Nick, for one, isn't worried: "He doesn't cheat on her. He goes out and squeezes breasts. That's about it."

Afterward, out in a hotel lobby, Simmons squeezed the cheeks of yours truly after demonstrating several impressive tongue twists and wags.

"Men, go back to being men," he kept saying. Yes sir.