



The JAMBAR

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February 3, 2004

Snow/Freezing Rain
HIGH: 33 LOW: 26

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Issue 34

Alternatives weighed by city council

By WILLIAM LEHN & BONNIE BODNAR
The Jambar

The sixth floor of City Hall was packed Wednesday night as Youngstown Mayor George McKelvey called for a special meeting of the Youngstown City Council Finance Committee.



McKELVEY

The Finance Committee deliberated on three alternatives proposed by the mayor for construction of the downtown convocation center.

They unanimously passed what the mayor called "alternative C, with an option for alternative A."

The decision, McKelvey said, essentially eliminates the possibility of the federal funds being used for renovation of Beeghly Center.

The unanimous approval of this resolution by the finance committee means that City Council will now vote on their recommendation. A majority of 4-3 is needed to pass and continue forward progress on the arena project.

Councilman Mark

Memmer said the resolution will pass the council with a majority vote.

"It has my vote and that's all it needs," Memmer said.

Alternative A would allow the U.S. Sens. Mike DeWine and George Voinovich time to obtain flexibility in the federal grant designated for construction of the convocation center. In addition, the option calls for an extension for completion of the project.

Alternative B, which was not even considered, would wait until fall 2004 or winter 2005 for DeWine and Voinovich to change the language of the grant through appropriations.

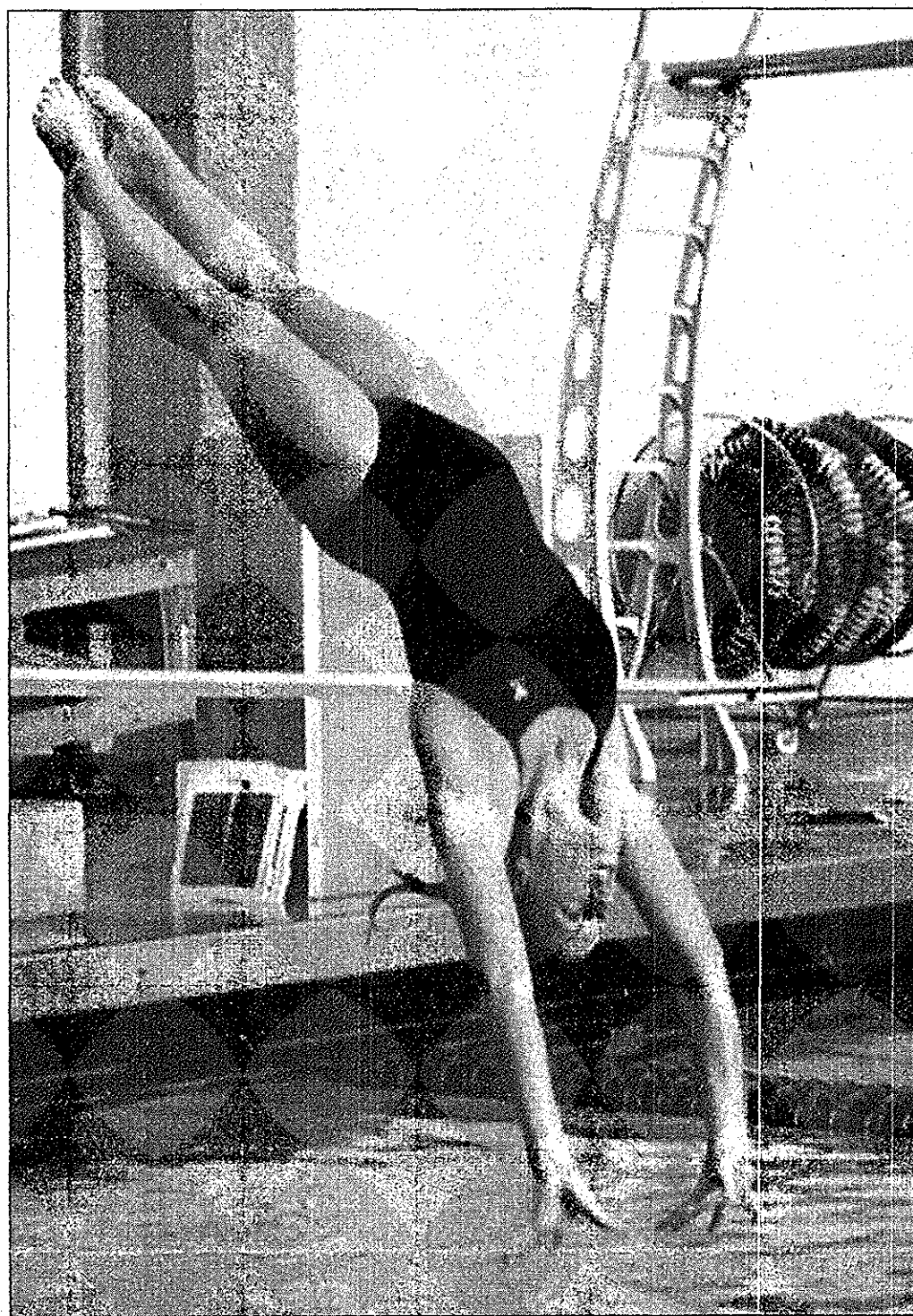
Alternative C proposes the city move forward and pursues negotiations with Global Entertainment to spend the full \$26 million of the federal grant money towards building a \$32 million dollar arena downtown.

McKelvey said he was "optimistic" that they would receive the extension to complete the project, but obtaining money for completing on-campus projects ranks "improbable to impossible."

Additionally, McKelvey did caution that, "If option A is

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FLIPPIN' OUT



Chuck Rogers / The Jambar

JUMP TO IT: The YSU Swimming and Diving team has been making waves of late. Junior Kaiyn Leveto broke her own school record in 1-meter diving with a score of 329.55 to lift the Penguins to a 123-97 win over the Canisius Golden Griffins Saturday afternoon at the Beeghly Natatorium. YSU will travel to Indianapolis on Feb. 8 for a meet with Butler, Wright State and Xavier at 2 p.m.

source: ysu.edu/sports

Trustee known for loyalty, support

By WILLIAM LEHN
The Jambar

Youngstown State University Trustee F.W. "Bill" Knecht of Boardman died Wednesday after a battle with cancer; he was 66.

Knecht, originally from Warren, was a 1960 YSU graduate and YSU Trustee. His term was set to expire in 2008. Knecht later became CEO of Wendell August Forge.



KNECHT

Knecht is remembered by friends as one of YSU's most ardent supporters.

University President David Sweet said the trustee was always prepared and seeking ways to improve the university.

"His loyalty, wisdom, generosity of spirit and incomparable enthusiasm will be greatly missed," Sweet said.

Fellow trustee John Pogue knew Knecht all his life. Also from Warren, Pogue remembered Knecht's "salesman zeal."

"The same salesman zeal

See TRUSTEE, page 2

Grant has students headed for Bahamas

By CHUCK ROGERS
The Jambar

Math students seldom get their hands wet doing their homework, but that will change for a few of them this semester.

Thanks to a \$100,000, two-year grant from the National Science Foundation, 16 mathematics and biology students are leaving March 5 for Gerace Research Station on San Salvador, Bahamas. Once there, the students will collaborate in taking field samples and creating mathematical models to analyze the island's marine ecosystem.

Assistant professor of biology Carl Johnson, and assistant professor of math George Yates will lead the students in their week-long field trip to the Caribbean island.

"Almost every aspect of biology lends itself to mathematical analysis," Yates said.

The grant was given to promote bio-mathematics, an interdisciplinary approach to biological research.

Through the grant, YSU has created a field ecology course for both math and biology students. Those going to San Salvador will work in four-person teams consisting of one graduate and two undergraduate biology students and one math student.

The students will be sampling water from the sea and numerous inland lakes. They will also study the coral reefs surrounding the island.

"The teams will get the math person involved in biology," Yates said. "They will get their hands wet and dirty"

Johnson said biology students will benefit by having a mathematician help design advanced models based on their observations.

"Models were simpler in the past," Johnson said. "Now models have become more sophisticated."

Yates said the grant would also fund the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience to be conducted by the mathematics and biology

See GRANT, page 4

Alleged shooter threatens police

By AMY C. McCULLOUGH
The Lantern (OSU)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio - It's the perfect plot for a horror movie — a serial shooter and a threat to show the world his "impact." But it's not a scary movie, it's real.

A person claiming to be the Interstate 270 serial shooter called a Franklin County 911 operator around 2:23 a.m. Saturday.

The call only lasted 50 seconds, but the threat was clear.

"It's going to get worse," the man said. "I am intent to start shooting at the police now. They are the ones who have corrupted the world."

The caller said he intended to shoot again Sunday and said "the whole world will see how Ohio is," and the shooting would be captured "live." He then hung up without further clarification.

See SHOOTER, page 4

Rate your professors online

By COLLEEN HAVENS
The Jambar

A total of 156 Youngstown State University professors are rated on a Web site that offers students a chance to evaluate everything from their teachers' physical appearance to their grading styles.

Students do the grading at RateMyProfessors.com.

On the site, students from various colleges and universities post comments and rate their professors on easiness, helpfulness, clarity and even looks with the "hot pepper" rating. Each professor has an Overall Quality rating of good, average or poor, and names can never be

removed.

The operators of the site describe themselves as "common, ordinary people who believe that students are the CUSTOMERS of professors." They also say that their listings are people's opinions and should be viewed simply as that, not as scientifically accurate data.

Youngstown State University has 156 names listed from all departments. Some YSU professors know the Web site exists while others just learned of the site. Professors and students alike shared mixed thoughts.

English professor Stephen Sniderman said he is apprehensive about being on the site. He said he would have to read what his students

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Entertainment 4
Sports 6

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hotmail.com

Inside today's issue:

Mens basketball team hit stride.
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thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice Of Youngstown State University

Is RateMyProfessors.com a good idea for evaluating professors at YSU?
Vote @ www.thejambar.com

Panthers come up just short of Super Bowl win. Fat Head Says. Page 6



English Festival ready to roll

By ALICYN ROMEO
The Jambar

From March 31 to April 2 expect longer lines and larger crowds in Kilcawley Center.

During that time, approximately 1,000 extra students will be on campus to participate in Youngstown State University's 26th annual English Festival.

Former English professors Thomas and Carol Gay began the English Festival in 1978 as a celebration of literature. Along with help from YSU's English department, they established a writing competition and award in memory of their daughter, Candace McIntyre Gaye, who had died of cancer a year earlier.

Response to the festival was so great that within four years the festival had expanded into a three-day event.

English Festival co-chair Stephen Sniderman said the festival continues to grow each year and has gained national recognition.

Administrative Assistant Rick Williams, one of the event coordinators, agreed.

"Authors brag about coming to the Festival so much that other authors call us, wanting to know how to get invited," Williams said.

A new program, the English Festival Urban Initiative, is allowing even more students the opportunity to participate in the activities.

A grant from the John Raymond Wean Foundation, the initiative is providing several areas schools that have been under-represented at the Festival in the past with books and registration fees for their

"We never know what books are going to cause a problem. We're always surprised."

—STEPHEN SNIDERMAN
English Professor



students. The English Festival Committee hopes this will increase the number of urban students attending the Festival.

In October, almost 200 schools from five counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania received invitations to bring their junior high and high school students to participate in the three-day event. Students participating in the festival will read seven books chosen for their grade levels by the English Festival Committee and Advisory Board, headed by Co-Chairs, professors Gary Salvner and Sniderman.

Among the selections are "Backwater," by Joan Bauer, about a young girl's quest to find the missing branch from her dysfunctional family tree; "Enchantress from the Stars," by Sylvia Louise Engdahl, a science fiction novel; "Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star," by Randy Powell, about a boy who is dealing with his rocker mom's death from a drug overdose; "A Step from Heaven," by debut novelist An Na, about a five-year-old Korean girl's experience adjusting to life in America; and "Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the

Internet out of Idaho," by Jon Katz, about two teenage hackers who surf the net out of their Mormon hometown.

In the past, some English Festival books have been challenged because of their controversial subject matter. Sniderman said when it comes to controversy every book is potentially offensive to someone.

"We never know what books are going to cause a problem," Sniderman said. "We're always surprised."

This year's speakers are featured author Joan Bauer and president of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents Bill Mollineaux.

During the festival, students participate in contests and activities based on the books. Workshops for prose, poetry and journalism are also options. In addition, there is an art contest for the best original cover of a Festival book.

Each day, students' work is judged by members of the English Department, librarians, area teachers and parents. An awards ceremony at the end of each day recognizes more than 200 prize winners. Over the three days, students will receive more than \$15,000 in prizes, ranging from books to savings bonds to t-shirts to cash.

To find out more about the English Festival or to get involved, visit the festival's Web site at <http://as.yosu.edu/~english/festeng.htm>.

Call Alicyn Romeo at (330) 941-1913.

COUNCIL, continued from page 1

open, then that would open the door again for YSU plans."

YSU's hopes for option A being open will rely on a seven-business day extension for Sens. DeWine and Voinovich to convince Housing and Urban Development for a possibility of funds for campus related projects.

However, according to Mike Dawson, communications director and senior policy advisor for Sen. DeWine, the flexibility is only possible through a year-long process of congressional appropriations.

While the council meeting has brought grim news for the university, President David Sweet expressed his support for the success a convocation facility in Youngstown, regardless of its location.

"We are pleased that the city has a viable option to proceed along the lines of the original concept, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the city in developing long-range plans for improving Youngstown," Sweet said.

Councilman Artis Gillam, whose ward includes the area

surrounding the YSU campus, said, "Seven days is just a courtesy, then it [YSU's plan] is dead."

McKelvey said the original amendment to change the language of the federal grant was "mysteriously lost on the congressional floor."

"There's money for a rainforest in Idaho, and a tram for the Mall of America in Minneapolis but our amendment gets lost."

Call William Lehn or Bonnie Bodnar at (330) 941-1913.

TRUSTEE, continued from page 1

is what Knecht used to promote YSU in any way possible," Pogue said. "He was one fine, fine person, and it's a real loss for everyone."

Knecht was a member of the Penn Northwest Development Corp., Mahoning Valley Historical Society, The Youngstown Club, Four Square Club and the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He also served as president of the Boardman Board of Education, the Boardman Civic Association and the YSU Penguin Club.

Fellow Penguin Club member Clarence Smith knew Knecht from grammar school and said the loss to the valley is tremendous.

"He helped Youngstown and the valley in any way he could," said Smith.

Boardman architect Bob Mastriana designed the Wendell August Forge building in Holmes County and said he felt "honored" to be

Knecht's friend. Mastriana said Knecht strongly valued friendship, and his impact extended "beyond the borders of Western Pa. and the Mahoning Valley."

"He would do anything for anyone for their benefit and not for himself," Mastriana said. "He helped more people in this valley than any other man. More than the DeBartolos or the Cafaros, and he didn't ask for anything in return."

Mastriana said the former trustee was diagnosed with cancer in 1999. During his final three years, Knecht gave inspiration to other cancer victims.

"During his remission, his focus was to help other victims battle the disease and instill hope for them," Mastriana said.

Dean Hoover, a lifelong friend and fellow Four Square Club member said, "He battled to the end with such grace, poise, and determination; he will be missed by all."

Knecht was honored by YSU with the university's highest honor, the Distinguished Citizen Award, in 2001, the same year a scholarship was established in his honor. In 2003, he was named Penguin of the Year and inducted into The Penguin Club Hall of Fame.

He also was a member of the Dover Club, Duquesne Hunting and Fishing Club and Tippecanoe Country Club. He attended Zion Lutheran Church.

Knecht is survived by his wife Connie; son, Will; daughter, Deborah Fetter; and five grandchildren.

If you would care to make a memorial gift to the F.W. "Bill" Knecht III Scholarship, you can contact the YSU Development Office at (330) 941-3119. Checks may be made payable to Youngstown State University.

Call William Lehn at (330) 941-1913.

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Co-sponsored by Reading & Study Skills Center
Center for Student Progress, and University Counseling Center



Fall 2003 College Success Workshop Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Topic	Location
Wednesday	February 4	5:00pm	Time Management & Procrastination	Jones Room, KC
Thursday	February 5	10:00am	The Messages You Send: Tips on College Etiquette	Gallery, KC
Monday	February 9	4:00pm	Learning Styles	Gallery, KC

All workshops are free, no registration is required. Each workshop is approximately 50 minutes long.

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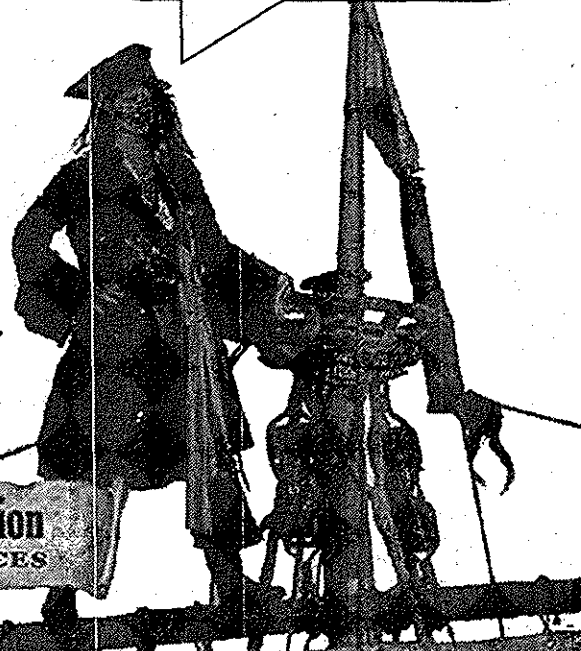
RA Selection Timeline

Jan 12 Applications available
Jan 27-29 Information Sessions
Feb 6 Reference forms due
Feb 13 Applications due (by 5pm)
Feb 20 Group Process
Feb 23 Interviews begin
Mar 5 RA job offers go out

Yo-ho-ho! It's me duty to keep this vessel shipshape. It's about more than doubloons matey!

Pick up an application at the YSU Housing Office in Kilcawley House. Call the YSU Housing office at 330-941-3547 for more information.

RA Selection
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Today's Editorial

Taft must keep students' best interest in mind

Last week's death of Youngstown State University Board of Trustee member F.W. "Bill" Knecht signals a loss for the university.

Knecht, in his years as a trustee at the university and as a member of the Mahoning Valley Business Community, made valuable contributions to Youngstown.

His death also signals an opportunity for Gov. Bob Taft to appoint a trustee who will represent YSU students fairly.

We urge Taft to open up the appointment process. The involvement of students to look for someone who will be sensitive to their demands is crucial.

Currently, the month-long process involves an appointed board by the governor that talks with the university administration about eligible candidates.

The board researches the possible candidates and recommends them to the governor. Taft interviews each candidate and then selects one.

The selection process should not be in a closed room in Columbus but instead on the campus of YSU.

The Jambor is offering space on the editorial and opinion page to print biographies of the candidates to ensure student involvement.

Taft's track record has been poor in terms of higher education, and now is his opportunity to change.

Taft's spokesman Orest Holubec, in an interview Monday with a Jambor reporter, said Taft "typically appoints those who share his philosophy."

However, it is the students' philosophy that should be represented in the boardroom.

We encourage Taft not to appoint a trustee based upon party loyalty, but instead an appointment of who is best suited to represent student needs at YSU.

Letter to the Editor

Students hypocritical to quote Bible in letters

Editor:

Ms. [Aimee] Delligatti wrote, "Non-Christians can call us whatever they want to. Bigots, segregationists, what have you. However, I find my peace knowing that on judgement day, I will have no worries of this excess sin on my heart."

It is interesting that she will have no worries on her heart while she is judging homosexuals. Every single Christian that is writing letters to the editor against homosexual marriage is judging people. Judging others is forbidden in the very bible that her and others are quoting from so frequently.

George Andres
Former Student

The Jambor editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambor and its Editorial Board members: Editor in Chief Angela Olin, News Editor Beth Tabak, Design Editor B.J. Lisko and Copy Editor Mark Stevens. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

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

The Jambor 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 do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambor staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

The Jambor

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DEMOCRATIC IDOL



Guest Commentary

Every citizen free to choose own beliefs

BY JOHN PAUL DESIMONE
Special to The Jambor

I was born privileged. Yes, privileged, as most people living in our great nation were. We are all privileged. We are all free. However, ensuring freedom for all people living in one single nation does come with a consequence ... social tolerance.

Let me take this opportunity to address the overzealous people who recently contributed letters to the editor (Jambor, Jan. 27) that it is the Constitution of the United States of America that governs our great nation. Contrary to their belief, our nation is not governed by the sacred Hebrew Bible, the sacred Christian Bible, the sacred Qu'ran or any other divine book of revelation for that matter.

The First Amendment to the Constitution clearly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, etc."

Thus, every citizen of the United States is free to choose his or her own belief system. I have discovered, through academic studies of religion, that all rivers lead to the same lake and all lakes lead to the same ocean. For people living in the United States, well, we're the lucky ones. We have the freedom and privilege to choose what boat we want to sail on.

What Lindsay Gerish (Jambor, Jan. 13)

"The First Amendment to the Constitution clearly states 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, etc.'

and Aimee Delligatti and Julie Cole (Jambor, Jan. 29) don't seem to comprehend is, as a citizen of the United States of America, I am free to choose to believe in the Bhagavad-Gita, the Tao Te Ching, the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible, or the Qu'ran. In fact, I can even choose to believe in all of them or none of them. Do you get it? It's my choice just as it is respectfully your choice.

Aimee Delligatti, don't fret. No one is asking you to "disobey your father." In fact, I do hereby declare, on behalf of all homosexuals worldwide, that you may remain a heterosexual. You may rest assured; I'll be sure to bring it up at the next National Convention of Homosexuals that you are not to be scheduled for conversion! However, in the United States, Aimee, "your father" is still

just that ... your father.

Julie Cole, no one is referring to the Christian Bible as "nonsense." But again, it's your Bible, and it's not considered by everyone else in the United States to be the be all and end all of truth and revelation. Again, you can reference the First Amendment to the United States Constitution if necessary.

On a personal note, I do happen to believe in God. I also have trust in God and GOD ALONE will judge me on judgement day. So again, I find Gerish, Delligatti, and Cole to be a bit self-righteous, even pompous, to be assuming the duties of God. Isn't there something in Biblical scriptures about sinners throwing stones anyway?

The only religion that seems to have followers that have a problem with the Principle of Mutual Orthodoxy (look it up) is the Christian. And it's not all Christians by any means. I am not anti-Christian. In fact, I am not against any particular religion at all. The Great Religions of the world all have unique beauties and contain meticulous codes of conduct how to live a righteous life. I find Christianity, in and of itself, to be just as valid as all of the major religions. It's just that Christians simply don't have the market cornered on God's love or forgiveness.

God Bless our free America!
Mr. DeSimone is a senior in the Psychology & Religious Studies Department.

Letter to the Editor

Senior failed to see compassion in letters

Editor:

I am writing in regard to two different [letters to the editor] posted in last week's Jambor which quoted biblical scripture.

First of all, I was under the impression that Christianity endorsed compassion. I failed to see any compassion in last week's opinion articles. I saw small-minded people clinging desperately to their religion out of a fear for that which they do not understand. Religious values of most spiritualities are good, so long as you implement them into your own life, and don't begin to attack with them. Much, much blood was shed in the name of the Judeo-Christian God, and I'd be willing to bet a lot of it was born of the same fear which caused last week's [letters].

No one is holding a gun to your head and forcing you to indulge in actions which might upset your deity. All anyone was asking for was a little compassion. If you are unable to find compassion within the confines of a spirituality that teaches love and understanding, then I guess there is little hope in you finding it within the realm of basic humanity.

My second issue is with the quoting of biblical scripture as truth. This actually boggles my mind. Spiritual truth is subjective. I cannot fathom how anyone could have the audacity to tell me (much less the rest of the university, which consists of

Muslims, Buddhists, Pagans, Hebrews and an infinite number of various spiritual practitioners) what is true and what is not. I must have missed the results of the empirical study done on Christianity.

Having studied Christian mythology in depth, I was also under the impression that the crucifixion and resurrection nullified much of the Old Testament, which makes me question whether or not you even understand the scripture you have quoted. Christianity is based on faith, and faith alone. What you perceive as truth may well be very different from the people who sit next to you in class. Until you are fluent in the oral tradition of Aramaic, can translate (without fallibility) ancient Greek text, and can either prove or disprove the existence of God, don't you DARE try to tell me (or anyone else) what is true and what is not.

It's thinking like yours in legislation that just set the state of Ohio back 50 years.

Love is never wrong.

Nicole Young
Senior
Psychology & Religious Studies

Got an opinion? We want to hear from you...
write us @
thejambor@hotmail.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Super, and not so super commercials

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambor

With Super Bowl Sunday, a few things are always guaranteed.

First, you'll always have cheesy, extraneous halftime celebrations. Of course, this year, we had a little striptease thrown in.

Second, you get two weeks leading up to the Super Bowl of mindless drivel put out by sportswriters in search of the hidden storylines of the coming game. If I had to read one more article about Rod "He Hate Me" Smart, I think I might have begun to projectile vomit.

Third, you get great commercials. With ad prices reaching seven digits, viewers have to expect companies to push the limits of acceptable advertising and pull off entertaining, elaborate commercials.

During the regular season, commercial breaks provide time to refill and visit the potty. Not so during the Super Bowl. If you have to go, you best do it during a lull in the action or just hold it. You don't want to miss these commercials.

This year's ads were not a disappointment. There were several entertaining commercials, but there were also a few stink bombs dropped in.

Here's a listing of the best and the worst marketing geniuses had to offer Sunday, listed in no particular order.

The Good:

HR Block: Willie Nelson and Don Zimmer in the same commercial? Where am I? 1965? But the Willie Tax Help Doll was genius. This commercial worked on two levels. One, it was entertaining. Willie

Nelson as a tax advisor? I wouldn't recommend it. Unless of course you've been spending too much time on Willie's tour bus enjoying "nature." Secondly, it got the point to the viewer. Taxes are best filed by those with a touch of experience.

Budweiser (Referee): Perhaps the funniest of this year's bunch of commercials. It was smartly written and well acted. The stoic ref stood silent as the coach berated him for what he felt was a blown call while the announcers wondered how he was able to take it. Cut to the ref's home life where his wife tears him a new one worse than the coach. "When is that porch step going to get fixed?" and "You know, it wouldn't kill you to tell me that you love me" were just two of the wife's most memorable lines. Of course, they were screamed, which always helps grab attention.

Budweiser (Donkey): The donkey that aspired to be one of Bud's famous horses well known from their Christmas ads was an uplifting, beautiful portrayal of dedication and desire. Well, maybe not, but the donkey with the long leg hair and in reins along side the massive, well-bred horses was certainly memorable.

Bud Light (Horse Fart): Sure it was crude and sophomoric, but sometimes you need to bring the intelligence level down a little bit. It was funny. And you can't argue that. "Do you smell barbecue?"

Lays (Old People): The thought of senior citizens going WCW for some potato chips seems like a simple, worn idea. But the images were still resonant, and the climax of their fight, with the old woman holding the man's den-

tures (or as Jessica Simpson would call them, 'ventures') was classic. Nothing like using our silver-haired citizens for a few cheap laughs.

Honorable Mention: MasterCard (Simpsons), Nextel (racecar doing brodies in the endzone), 7up (moving slam dunk truck) and Linux (Ali).

The Bad:

Dodge (Monkeys): This commercial was just stupid. That's all. I know I should try to come up with some description or some reasoning, but I can't. It was stupid.

Truth (Glass Shards Ice Pops): I've never been a fan of the way organizations like Truth and Stand blame cigarette companies for people using tobacco. At this point, we all know that there's a risk involved in using tobacco, OK? Let it go. But using something so blatantly asinine as a comparison to companies making tobacco is just poorly thought out. People make the decision to use tobacco. And their parallel suggests that all people that use tobacco will suffer horrible consequences. Blah.

All Male Sexual Enhancement Drug Companies: These ads are just uncomfortable. I don't want to know about Mike Ditka's sex life, OK? The thought is enough to force abstinence, not the use of enhancements. My favorite line? "Erections that last more than four hours are uncommon, but should be treated immediately." Really? You mean that's unnatural? And all along, I thought I was just "special."

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

UH OH



KRTCampus.com

HOUSTON, TX — Justin Timberlake helps Janet Jackson cover her chest after it was exposed during her halftime performance at Super Bowl XXXVIII at Reliant Stadium, Sunday. The FCC plans to launch a full investigation of the halftime show to determine whether the occurrence was accidental or planned.

GRANT, continued from page 1

departments. The SURE program will pair students from each discipline for team research projects under the direction of faculty members. The students will prepare and present a report at the end of the summer, and will receive a stipend for their work.

Johnson said the outdoor projects would be fun for the students as well as educational.

"We're not doing armchair science," he said, "It's individual, real-world experience."

Johnson said that 80 percent of the grant money would go toward student expenses in San Salvador and stipends for the SURE program. Another 10 percent will go to faculty salaries. Thomas Smetzer, associate mathematics professor, said the remaining 10 percent will be spent on equipment and supplies.

Graduate students will have to pay their way for the field trip, while undergraduate students will need to fund about 30 percent of their own expenses.

The NSF grant follows a trend of support for interdisciplinary research. Johnson said it is now easier to get multidisciplinary grants than grants for individual specialties. Yates added that this grant is a follow up to a \$400,000 grant awarded under the NSF's

Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship program.

The bio-mathematics grant also comes on the heels of a \$700,000 NSF award for proteomics research given to a team of YSU biology and chemistry professors in 2003.

Department of Biology chairperson Robert Leipheimer said he hopes this project is "just the beginning" of interdisciplinary work.

"Great advances for us in the future will come from teams of people with varied backgrounds," Leipheimer said.

Mathematics department Chair Nathan Ritchey said the project was priceless.

"I'm really proud of every one involved," he said.

Assistant Biology professor Thomas Diggins said as an institution, YSU benefits from projects like these.

"These programs are attractive to students," Diggins said. "They're not typical programs for a comprehensive 4-year urban university. They're more like those at a research university."

Johnson agreed. "Programs like these will attract top students to the university."

Call Chuck Rogers at (330) 941-1811.

RATE, continued from page 1

have said about him before he decides if he is okay with it.

On easiness, Sniderman was rated a three, helpfulness a five and clarity a five. "GREAT PROF!!!" wrote a student of his literature 1500 course.

Organic Chemistry professor Peter Norris said he knew about his listing and found it entertaining.

"I'm okay with being one of the professors listed on the site, and my wife had a good laugh over the pepper rating," Norris said.

Norris received average ratings including a total hotness level of two, easiness of 2.8, helpfulness of 4.5 and clarity of 4.8.

Norris said the site is fine although he doubts many students know about it.

"If a professor is doing a good job teaching their classes then it will show up in student's comments," Norris said.

Sniderman agrees. "It's about time YSU has a place for students to tell each other about their professors. Many campuses have had a booklet with such information. This is like a 'Consumer Reports' for students. That's terrific," Sniderman said.

English professor William Greenway said he didn't know about the Web site or that he was listed on it.

"I don't mind being listed since I've got a good quality rating, but I might feel differently if I had a bad one," Greenway said.

Although Greenway had a zero hotness total, easiness and helpfulness were listed as five and clarity as four.

"Best teacher ever," wrote one student.

Music Education professor Stephen Ausmann also didn't know he was mentioned on the Web site but said he was "humbled" by his listing.

"Really, I am flattered and in some tiny way, honored by the gesture from my students," Ausmann said.

Ausmann has a good quality rating and four hot peppers.

Ausmann said he thinks the site might be helpful to students, especially freshmen, who are possibly apprehensive about initial contact with a professor regarding any issue in their academic or personal/social life here at YSU.

However, some students do not agree.

Senior Lindsay Sinkovich said she heard of the Web site from a friend. After browsing the site, Sinkovich said she thought it was awful. She called the Web site "juvenile" and would not use it because it posts what she calls shoddy evaluations of YSU faculty.

"If you want to find out what a professor is like, take their course, or at least speak to a reliable source," Sinkovich said.

Economics professor Richard Bee agreed.

Bee, who has an average quality rating, said RateMyProfessors.com is worthless.

"People can say what they want about me and other professors because they can hide by not using their names on the site," Bee said.

The Web site responds to professors who cast a skeptical eye on their listings by saying "If you really believe the ratings are not fair, put your money where your mouth is and ask your students to rate you on the site."

But the hosts of the site recognize problems with verifying information and post this warning: "... it is not possible for us to verify which raters had which teachers, so always take the ratings with a grain of salt. Remember, we have no way of knowing who is doing the rating — students, the teacher, other teachers, parents, dogs, cats, etc."

Greenway also pointed out what he saw as a problem with RateMyProfessors.com.

"The problem I see so far is that there are so few 'votes' cast for each professor, so you don't get a fair estimate," Greenway said. "If only one student rates you and rates you low, then your overall rating is poor."

According to RateMyProfessors.com, all categories are based on a five point system, five being the best. The Overall Quality rating is the average of a teacher's helpfulness and clarity ratings. A teacher's easiness rating is not used when computing the Overall Quality rating, since an easiness of five may actually mean the teacher is too easy.

Other students had mixed feelings about the Web site.

Senior Brian Duchnak said the Web site is new to him, but he would probably use it now that he has heard about it. Duchnak said he thinks it can help other students get to know their teachers before taking their class.

"Students can give the most unbiased, not to mention anonymous, opinion about their professors," Duchnak said.

Call Colleen Havens at (330) 941-1913.

SHOOTER continued from page 1

Saturday's anonymous call was the second in a week, but the two callers do not appear to be the same, according to a statement released Sunday by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The first call was received Jan. 26 from another person claiming to be the highway

shooter.

Despite investigators' repeated attempts to establish communication with the shooter, the female dispatcher, who received the first call, appeared to be annoyed and did not take the call seriously.

"I am the highway shooter," the first caller said to a 911

operator.

After asking the location of the caller, the woman said: "Whatever, whatever, whatever. You just want attention, don't you? If you're the shooter, where are you at?"

The disinterested operator participated in four brief conversations with the first caller.

During the third call, the man claimed to have just shot a vehicle on Interstate 71. Police have not received any other calls about a shooting in that area at that time.

According to local media, the fourth call was disconnected almost immediately. Police are still investigating if the dis-

patcher actually hung up on the caller. After the second caller announced his intentions to shoot again, the sheriff's office sent a message out to all Ohio police officers warning them about the information they have received.

Investigators continue to encourage the shooter to estab-

lish communication with the task force, but they warn against any attempts to "misuse the 911 phone systems." Such an offense can result in up to one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine, according to the statement from the sheriff's office.

SPORTS & RECREATION

YSU hoops teams taking opposite paths

By JOSHUA BOGGS
The Jambar

On the road to success in college hoops, the Youngstown State University men's team seems to have a full tank, and positive results are coming their way.

The women's team, on the other hand, seems to have taken the wrong exit, and the team is in desperate need of a U-turn.

Through the first 16 games of the season, the men had won but four games. Now, momentum has shifted, and the Penguins are on a three-game win streak following home wins over Loyola and IPFW.

Led by junior Brian Radakovich's clutch 3-pointer with 39 seconds remaining in regulation, and his career-high 17 points, the men's team edged out Horizon League opponent Loyola 76-75 on Jan. 29 for their sixth win of the season.

Despite leading by eight points at the half, the team found itself knotted at 51 with 13:19 remaining in the contest.

The lead changed 14 times in the final 13 minutes with the teams trading buckets and the Penguins trailed 70-69 with under one minute remaining.

Answering the call was Radakovich, who, on a play that was not designed for a 3-point attempt, stepped up and nailed the eventual game-winning basket.

"We wanted to get the ball inside. Brian went where he was supposed to go. I preferred not to shoot the three, but Brian was open," head coach John Robic said.

"I was open and it worked," Radakovich said, laughing. "We like to make it interesting to the fans."

The Penguins had four players score in double figures for the game. Junior Doug Underwood had 16 points, while seniors Adam Baumann and TeJay Anderson had 11 and 10 points, respectively.

The Penguins (7-12, 2-6), riding on their first consecutive victories of the season, then hosted IPFW on Jan. 31 at Beeghly Center.

Guided by freshman Mike Woodard's 11 points, YSU earned their third consecutive victory, with a 71-61 romping of the Mastodons.

"We started off slow, but we jumped out hard," Woodard said. "We are working real hard at practice. We really wanted to get a third win."

The Penguins, who lead 32-24 at the half, held IPFW to just eight points

through nearly the first nine minutes of the second half.

A late Mastodon comeback could not outdo the Penguins, who led by as much as 17 points with 2:26 remaining.

Coach Robic agreed with Woodard that the team was a little rusty at the start, but said he was ultimately happy with the win.

"I think to end the first half, we were a little shaky against the zone, but you have to feel good about the win," Robic said.

Also aiding the Penguins were Baumann, who matched Woodard with 11 points and sophomore Andy Jahnke and Underwood with 10 points.

While the men have found their way in the middle of this season, the women have seemed to be working without a map during most games.

After snapping a 16-game losing streak with a win over IPFW on Jan. 24, the YSU women's team dropped a two-game road stretch with losses to Horizon League opponents Illinois-Chicago and UW-Milwaukee.

A career-high 15-points from freshman Kristy Gaudiose was not enough to lift the Penguins past Illinois-Chicago on Jan. 29. The Penguins lost the close contest 56-51.

Trailing 25-22 at the half, Gaudiose scored YSU's first eight points of the second half, but the Penguin deficit remained at three points, 32-29, with 14:32 remaining in regulation.

A 3-pointer from junior Cathy Hanek and a lay-up from senior Jessica Forsythe cut the Flames lead to two, with 6:48 remaining, but the Penguins could not pull out the victory.

Also leading the Penguins was junior forward Barb Fabianova who had 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

On Jan. 31, YSU traveled to the Klotz Center to face UW-Milwaukee in a game where the Penguins found themselves trailing by 24 points, 48-24, with 12:14 remaining.

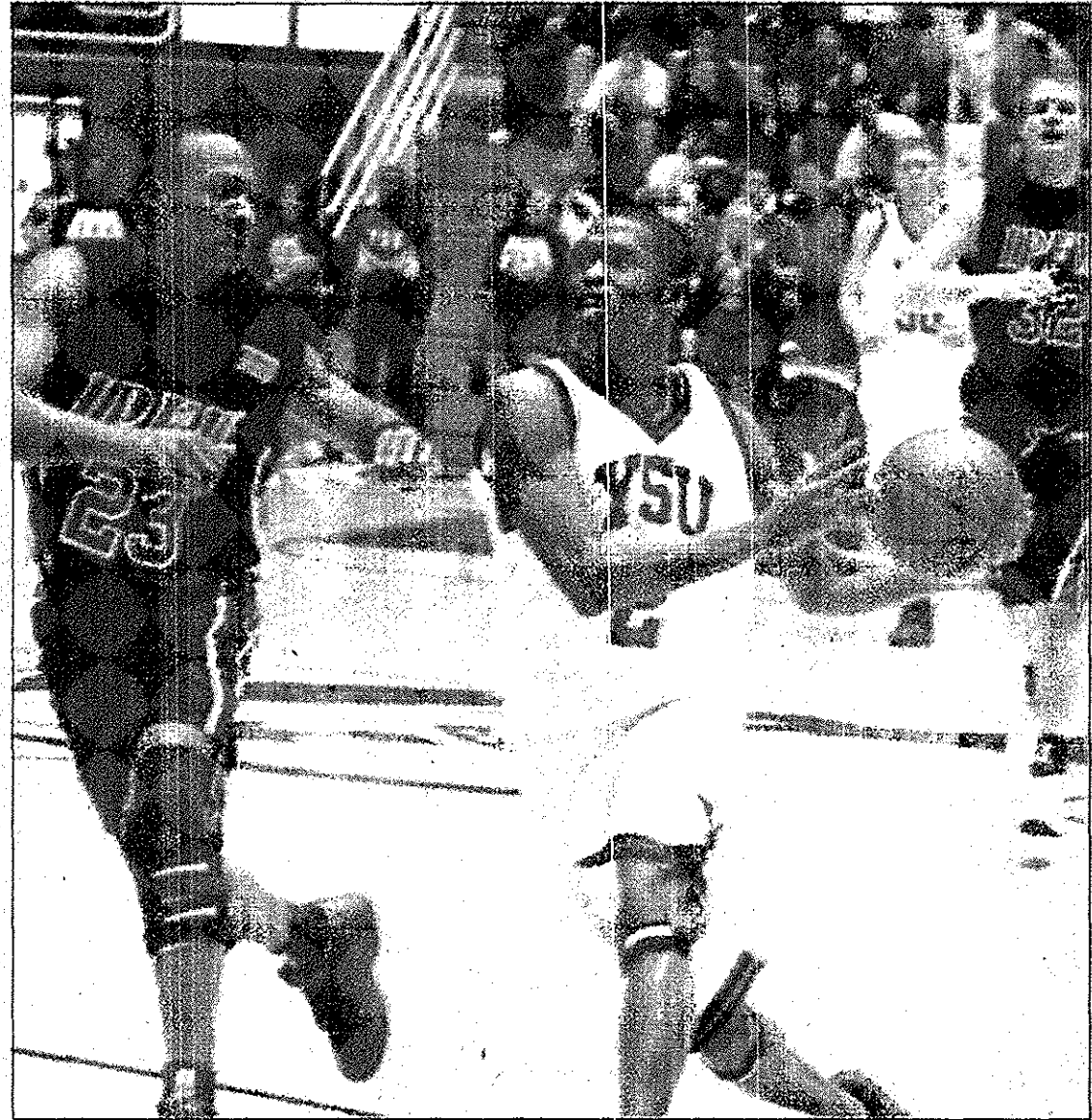
The Penguins (2-18, 0-9) were down, but they weren't out.

Despite YSU's impressive 32-14 run over the final 12 minutes of the game, the Penguins' valiant effort was not enough, and they fell to their eighteenth loss of the season, 62-56.

Junior Cathy Hanek led the Penguins with 13 points.

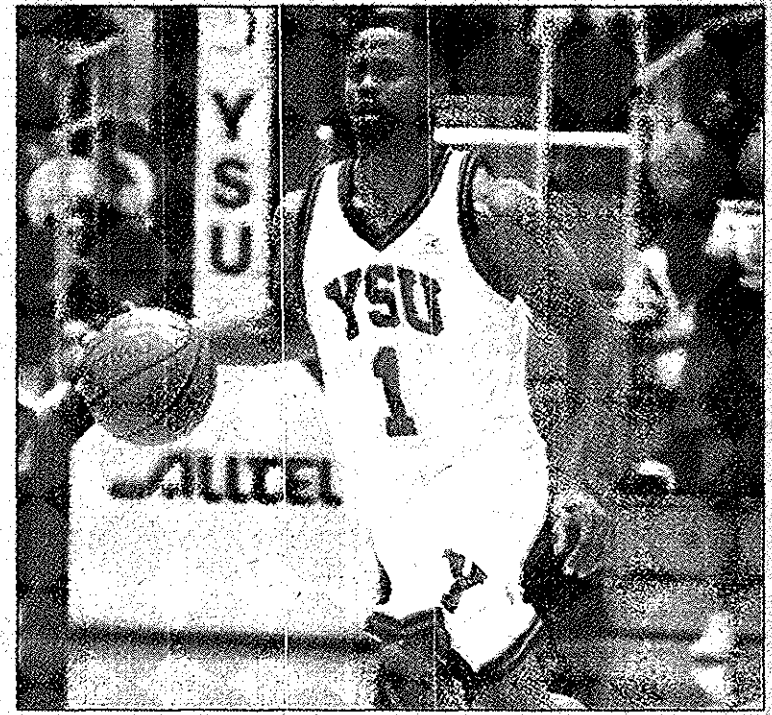
The women will host Cleveland State at Beeghly Center on Thursday, with tip-off at 7 p.m. while the men travel to Detroit.

Call Joshua Boggs at (330) 941-1989.



Chuck Rogers / The Jambar

ON THE RIGHT TRACK: YSU guard Quin Humphrey drives the ball up court against an IPFW defender January 31 at Beeghly Center. (above). Jonathan Mends runs the point. (right) The Penguins won the contest 71-61, giving them their third straight victory.



Admirations of a glorious, grand Super Bowl contest

Fat Head Says

By MARK STEVENS
The Jambar



instead of no NFL talk this week, it's going to be all NFL talk.

Except for this part. Do not rent, buy or stumble across the movie "Cabin Fever." It's awful, hideous and just plain stupid.

Did I just see what I think I saw?: That's exactly the question I asked of my coworker Adam as we watched the halftime show. You know what I'm talking about.

Miss J dropping some booby action on Houston.

In perhaps the first X-rated halftime show of my lifetime at least, Janet Jackson had what would later be described as "wardrobe malfunctions."

"Wardrobe malfunctions" my ass. Justin just wanted to see what Miss J was packing. He could have just asked. I'm sure in a less public environment Justin could work some of his "I've been with Britney, Alyssa Milano and Cameron Diaz" magic.

I always thought he'd be smoother. Boy's got no game.

By the way, if you have any doubts as to how sociologically off several members of this society are, I propose this tidbit as further evidence.

As of 1:14 a.m. Monday, Janet's halftime "show" was easily holding onto second place in ESPN.com's poll of visitors' favorite aspects of the Super Bowl, garnering 30 percent of the nearly 40,000 total votes.

Are you that deprived? It was half a little nipple for about .00098 seconds before CBS pulled the plug and cut away.

I was going to use this week to talk about things other than the Super Bowl, but then something crazy happened. The game ended up being good. So,

Seriously. That was your favorite part? Ouch for you, my friend. Various ouches.

Thankfully, I didn't see this: Apparently Janet wasn't the only one whose nipples made an appearance at the Super Bowl.

Some guy pulled a William Ligue and stormed out onto the field just before the start of the second half. Instead of beating a coach, he decided that everyone at Reliant Stadium should check out how he looks in a thong.

Streakers. Is there a stupider fan activity? At least if the guy jumped someone we would have gotten to see 100 burly men in full equipment pound the life out of him.

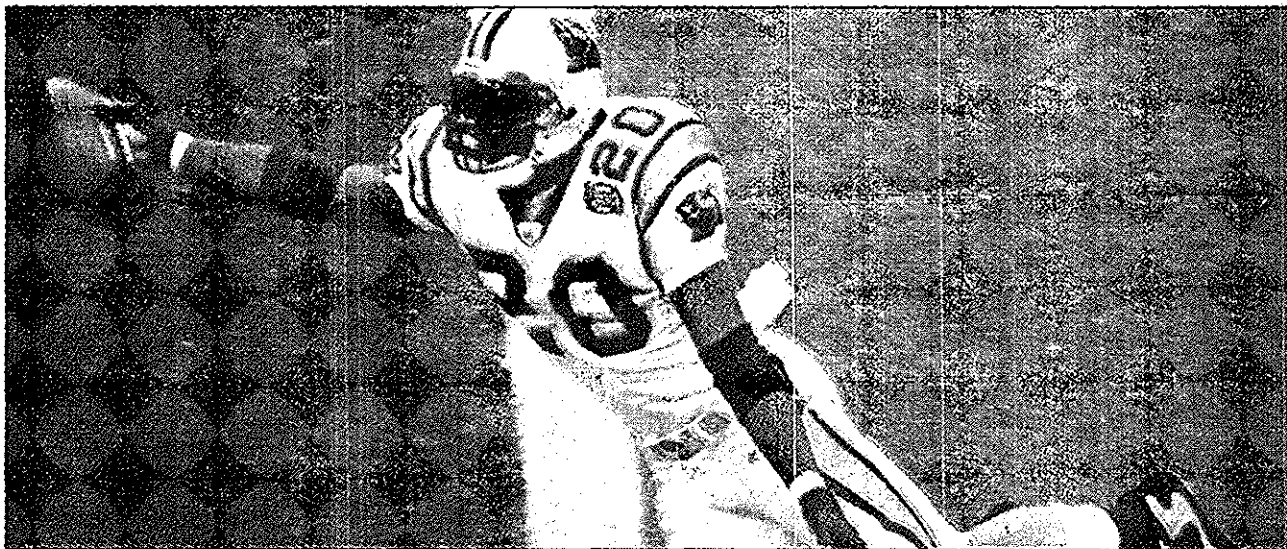
This guy escaped with getting leveled by a special teamer and a night in lockup. There is no justice.

They did play a game, right?: Sure they did. Well, three quarters of one.

Don't get me wrong; I love football. And I enjoyed the scoreless first quarter of Sunday's game just on principle, but the last three quarters are what made the game worth dragging a TV to work.

In the end it wasn't genius coach Bill Belichick's defense that made the difference. If anything, the defense was uncharacteristically off their game. They gave up big plays. They didn't force but one turnover. They couldn't rattle Jake Delhomme.

In fact, this was the Super Bowl that showed that nothing that happens in the regular season matters.



KRTCampus.com
HOUSTON, TX — Carolina running back DeShaun Foster leaps across the goal line after completing a fourth-quarter touchdown run in Super Bowl XXXVIII between the New England Patriots and Carolina Panthers, at Reliant Stadium, Sunday.

Stephen Davis didn't do jack. Adam Vinatieri was a goat for the first 59 minutes and 56 seconds of the game. Tom Brady actually put up numbers. The New England secondary got torched. Carolina's feared front four didn't sack Brady, not once.

Two well-coached, smart teams combined for 20 penalties. Carolina did not control the tempo of the game with long, grinding possessions. The team that made the most mistakes on special teams did not lose.

In the end, New England made enough plays. Brady was tough, mobile and accurate. And he didn't let his team fall after being dealt blow after blow by Carolina. It just seemed like Carolina was destined to pull off the upset.

How about a little Ohio State love? Mike Vrabel played a phenomenal game. The former Buckeye had two sacks, a forced fumble that led to the game's first score and even caught a touchdown.

In the end, it was the smallest guy on the

field coming through for the Pats at the end of another huge game. What a kick under pressure. What an ability to forget about a shank and a blocked kick just quarters before.

Dare I say it? The Pats have won 15 straight. I'd hate to be hasty, but two titles in three years reeks of dynastical potential. Shh. Not yet. But maybe.

Random other NFL musings: Emmitt Smith is coming back to Arizona next year. I guess this year wasn't enough for him. I always knew he was tough; I just didn't know it was because he is a sadomasochist... William Green is off suspension. Let's just hope no one picks him: up so he can have a cameo in "Playmakers" as one of D.H.'s boys... Congrats have to go out to this year's Hall of Fame selections. John Elway (this is where you cringe Browns fans) went out a winner; Barry Sanders went out healthy. Either way, you have to respect them...

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.