

# the jambar

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**BIGGER. STRONGER. FASTER.**  
Returning talent and a few new standouts might just propel the Penguins back into the playoffs.  
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**THE JOYS OF JERSEY**  
"Garden State" one of many projects to feature the state of New Jersey.  
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VOLUME 74, ISSUE 12 • WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM • YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY • >>FREE<<

## Department defends faculty hire

*Serowick must maintain "good standing" as a witness to keep contract.*

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambar

A Youngstown State University official is defending the recent hiring of a forensic science professor whose professional work is being called into question.

Jim Conser, interim chairman of the Criminal Justice Department, said he and the search committee who hired Joseph Serowick knew there were questions surrounding his work as a Cleveland lab technician. Conser said he stands behind Serowick's hiring.

Serowick was hired Aug. 9 as a full-time assistant professor of forensic science. He will make \$48,000 per year.

Conser said Serowick was "very straightforward" about allegations claiming erroneous testimony in a 1988 Cleveland trial that sent Michael Green to jail on a rape conviction. The Plain Dealer of Cleveland reported that Green was freed in 2001 after DNA testing proved his innocence. Green then filed a federal lawsuit that gained him a \$1.6 million settlement.

The Plain Dealer also reported that Serowick was suspended without pay from his position as a lab technician because of the Green case and others that are being investigated.

Serowick declined comment to a Jambar reporter.

"We checked into two of the references that had first hand

see SEROWICK, page 4

## TUNING UP FOR ANOTHER SEASON



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ The brass section steps in time during a rehearsal of the Youngstown State University Marching Pride on the football practice field Thursday. The band will have its first performance Thursday, Sept. 2 when the Penguins take on Slippery Rock University.

## Sweet suspends police policy

*Police Chief Gocala says policy used six times in 13-year tenure.*

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambar



John Gocala

A long-standing campus police practice, which may have violated fourth amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, has been

suspended pending a legal review.

The practice, in place since the late 1970s, had allowed Youngstown State University police officers to enter unsecured vehicles if they observed valuable property in plain sight, YSU Police Chief John Gocala said.

Officers would take the property to the police station for safekeeping, and leave behind a yellow card that read, "You could have been ripped off. Please secure your property," and

advised the owner to retrieve their items at the station.

University officials were unaware of the practice until recent questions from The Vindicator brought it to their attention, university spokesman Ron Cole said. Officials suspended the practice shortly after hearing about it. No students had ever complained about the practice, he said.

The practice had been place for the protection of student property, Gocala said.

"We care about students," he

said. "We care about students' property. I want to make sure, when a student comes to this campus, that he or she goes home with the same property they came with."

Gocala said officers would simply roll up windows and lock doors if possible.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of closing your door. We'll leave a card. Or you left your trunk up. We'll leave a card," Gocala said. "But there have been times when they actually picked property up where it's unattended, windows open."

see POLICE, page 4

## President points to growth despite cuts

*Sweet outlined plans in a four-part speech on the campus' future.*

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambar

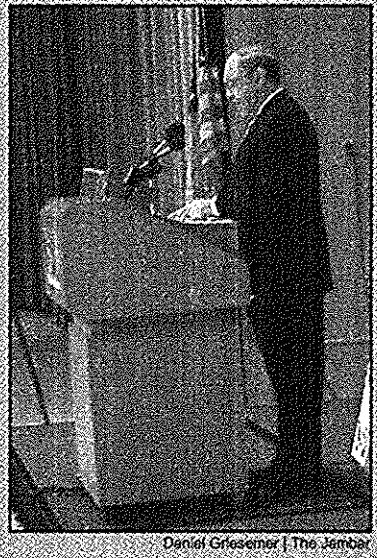
Despite declining state support and rising tuition, student enrollment this fall may top 13,000 for the first time since 1995, Youngstown State University president David Sweet said in his annual state of the university address.

Enrollment has increased 9.1 percent since fall 2000, from 11,787 students to 12,858 in fall semester 2003, Sweet said. The university has set a goal of 14,000 students by 2008, YSU's centennial anniversary.

In his address, delivered Thursday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center, Sweet presented an optimistic view of YSU's future. He highlighted the previous school year's achievements and stressed the of-

"[W]hile Ohio lags behind the nation in higher education participation, the Mahoning Valley lags behind Ohio."

- David Sweet  
YSU President



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

repeated claim that YSU is the best public university in Northeast Ohio for an undergraduate education.

"Last year we saw continued progress in our on-going quest to provide the highest quality education possible and to respond, to the educational

needs of our students and the community," Sweet said.

He cited as evidence the groundbreaking of Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, the 11 percent increase in grants awarded to YSU last year and new degree options,

see SWEET, page 4

## Human ecology department in process of 'regrowth'

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambar

After what she described as a "challenging and emotional year," the chairwoman of Youngstown State University's Human Ecology Department said she and her staff are optimistic about the future.

Jean Hassell, chair of the human ecology department, said

the staff of the Hospitality Management program is focused on moving forward and expanding after the past academic year's controversies and the loss of two of the program's professors.

Earlier this month, both William Bruce Neil, coordinator of the Hospitality Management

see ECOLOGY, page 5

## "Welcome Week" activities help encourage student acclimation

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

Dressed in jeans and a t-shirt and only days away from her first college class, Rachel Rhoads perused the textbook section of the Youngstown State University Bookstore with her mother and an anxious smile.

"I'm a little nervous. I haven't really met any new people,"

Rhoads admitted.

Rhoads is not alone in her nervousness; today is a milestone for many freshmen filing through YSU's halls, who flash uneasy and hopeful smiles at the new faces around them.

Director of the Office of Student Life Marty Manning said Welcome Week is an extension of

see WELCOME, page 5

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### the redlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

#### ▶ Freshman honor society wins award

The Youngstown State University chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta has received a Gold Award from the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First Year College Students. The YSU chapter

received the award for earning a 70 percent increase in membership in the 2003-04 academic year. Last year, the chapter received a Bronze Award. Alpha Lambda Delta has recognized outstanding college students since 1924 and has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships.

#### ▶ "Rocky Horror" auditions Aug. 29-30

The Oakland Center for the Arts will hold audi-

tions for their production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show from 3 to 5 p.m. Aug. 29 and from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Oakland, 220 W. Boardman St. Callbacks will be held, if needed, from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug 31.

Singers and actors should come prepared to dance and sing a contemporary musical theater piece of their choice. An accompanist will be provided.

#### ▶ Butler to hold tour guide classes Sept. 7

The Butler Institute of American Art will hold tour guide education classes beginning at 10 a.m. Sept. 7. Tour guides are specially trained volunteers who guide visitors, both school children and adults, through the museum. For more information call the Education Department at (330)743-1711, ext. 114.

Weather >> Scattered Storms

77 | 61

the jambar poll question  
Was the YSPD car entry policy a violation of student rights?  
vote online  
www.thejambar.com

# SGA retreat sets focus for year

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar



Mavrikis said it is poised for action this year.

President Angela Mavrikis said representatives did not forget about their responsibilities this summer and many were staples in the SGA office in Kilcawley Center.

The SGA retreat meeting in August set the stage for fall. Committee chairs were elected and by-laws, brought in by Vice President of Financial Affairs Bob McGovern for "The wYre" Internet radio station, passed unanimously.

Mavrikis and Vice President J.T. Holt also introduced topics such as a bulk rate adjustment that would add an extra two hours per year and domestic partner benefits for faculty and staff.

In addition to those issues, Mavrikis said SGA was working with university administrators and city officials to get involved in projects such as Youngstown 2010 and build a rapport with people that will affect the student body.

"We're working to establish relationships all around YSU and the surrounding communities," Mavrikis said.

Mavrikis also said those attending SGA meetings could expect a more professional pace than in past years.

She said members will address each other by titles, such as 'president' or

'representative' and said part of the reason for the change was to build a good standing and trust with the student body.

As the SGA prepares to begin tackling topics at their first general meeting next week, students reflected on the body's past performance and what issues it should focus on in the months ahead.

Tamika Ferrell, freshman, said she was impressed with SGA's efforts last year to register students to vote.

Ferrell said it was important for SGA to continue that drive for this year's presidential election because many students are unaware or apathetic to the importance of their vote.

Miranda Roberto, senior, said she felt SGA has not addressed the "real problems" of students in the past and needs to establish activities to bring them together.

"They need to create programs that will build camaraderie among the students. There isn't much stuff on campus like that," Roberto said.

Roberto also said formalizing SGA meetings will make students feel as though they cannot approach the members.

Representative Ryan McNicholas disagreed and said the formalization will point students in the right direction when they have a concern to share with their college's representative.

McNicholas added that most of the student body is unaware of how SGA is run and that a professional structure will help them to gain a better understanding.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

# ADDRESSING TOMORROW'S COLLEGE STUDENTS



Youngstown State University President David Sweet addresses the crowd Friday during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Youngstown Early College Program. The first class of 75 students will take classes in Fedor Hall along with college courses on campus.

# Campus provides many dining options

ALLICYN ROMEO | The Jambar

It is noon on Monday and Youngstown State University is crawling with hungry people.

From Bliss to DeBarolo Halls, students and faculty debate where to fill their stomachs and fuel their brains before their next class. Will they head to Kilcawley Center for a burrito from Mesa Jake's or will they wander off the beaten path and opt for a cozy table at Winslow's Café?

Students have many options when their tummies start to grumble. Dining Services provides meal plans and alternatives and the off-campus choices are not very far "off" at all.

Debbie Picciottino of Dining Services said no new food concepts have been added on campus since Café a La Cart

last fall. According to Picciottino, Dining Services has kept busy organizing the meal plan for the students who live in the off-campus apartments.

"Since the apartments are not technically a part of campus, their meal plan is not included. It is an additional fee, but the same services," she said.

Campus residents who opt for a meal plan can select one that is appropriate for their schedules and dining habits. Meals plans are based on a number of meals per week and can be used at eight locations on campus. They include Market Place Café, Noodles, Bagel Stop, Bagel Stop Express, Café a La Cart, Corner Café, Time Out C-Store and Christian Dining Commons.

Students who purchase meal plans must use them during the scheduled meal zones each day. The plans

allow for one meal from each zone per day - breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., lunch from 10:31 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 2:31 p.m. to 8 p.m. The plan does not allow for a student to eat breakfast twice and dinner once. Some students say this is not fair.

"It really is ridiculous," said Susan Skelley, who had a meal plan her first year at YSU. "If you paid for it, what difference does it make if you want to eat two lunches or three dinners? If you sleep in one day, you lose your money for breakfast," she said.

There is an alternative for students who feel that a meal plan is too restrictive. The Penguin Card allows students to use the same dining facilities as a meal plan, but does not have any time zones. Picciottino said the Penguin Card is her recommendation to

students. "We tell a lot of students that their best option is a Penguin Card," she said. "It's more like a debit card. You can use it whenever, whenever."

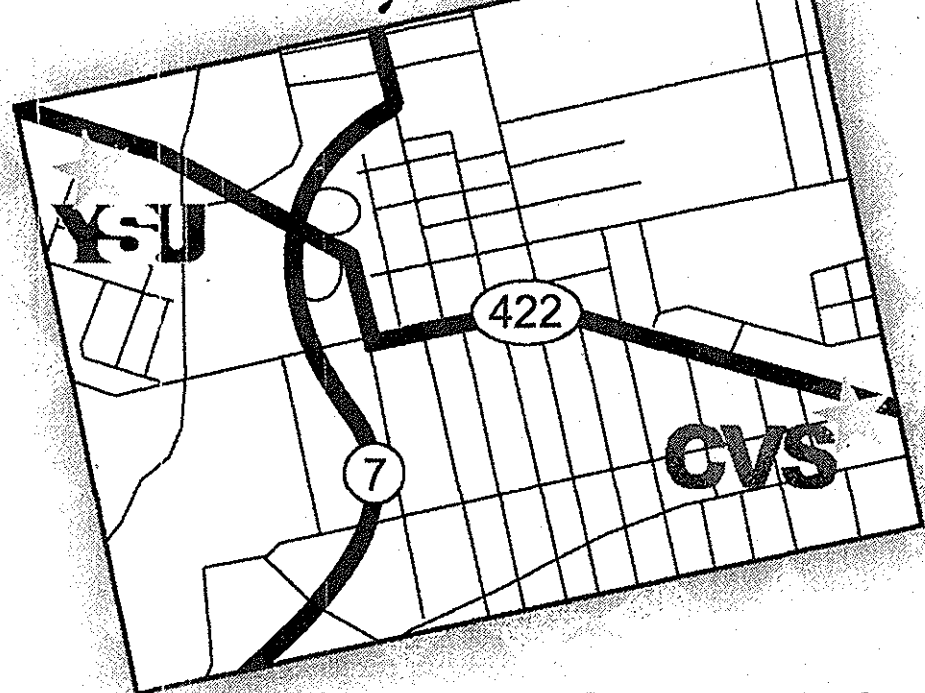
Penguin Card in hand, students can visit any of the campus dining facilities. There are facilities located on campus that are not available with a meal plan or a Penguin Card. In Kilcawley Center, Arby's, Peaberry's and the Candy Counter are alternatives for students willing to pay cash.

Some students feel that YSU's dining options are hindered by the hours of availability. Ariel Foster works at the Candy Counter and said it does not make sense that many of the places close early.

"It sucks that the Marketplace closes at 2:00 during the school year," see DINING, page 5

# CVS/pharmacy

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# opinion

- an editorial -

## Misinvestment as dangerous as disinvestment

As tradition holds, University President David Sweet heralded the new academic year with the presentation of his annual "State of the University Address." In many ways, the speech itself was unremarkable and predictable. Youngstown State University is still progressing in its Centennial Strategic Plan, Sherry Linkon is still the reigning Carnegie Foundation Ohio Professor of the Year, the ground is still broken for the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center and yes, YSU is still the "best public university in Northeast Ohio and beyond for an undergraduate education and for selected graduate programs."

As tradition also holds, Sweet opted not to pass on his chance to take an annual potshot at Governor Taft and the state Legislature, criticizing them for continuing the systematic disinvestment in higher education.

Granted, the numbers he presented are undisputable. The State of Ohio is in a fiscal crisis, and projections for the coming state budget are not promising. YSU has taken a hefty hit in the pocketbook over the last few years due to state cutbacks, and will most likely do so again... and again... and again.

"Unfortunately," Sweet continued, "we have also been forced to increase tuition in order to maintain academic quality and to offset the loss of state funds."

We, too, hear the giant sucking noise coming from the direction of Columbus.

However, as the Chestnut Room cleared and the sizeable audience migrated up to a multi-course, fully catered lunch buffet, we couldn't help but ask ourselves the question—How should a university that is suffering significant funding cutbacks look and act? Though the guests weren't sipping glasses of Caymus Conundrum or Beebeater gin cocktails, we're afraid that somewhere in between the salad bar, the appetizers, the fruit trays, the vegetable trays, the main courses and the make-your-own sundae station, the president's messages on state-level fiscal irresponsibility and budget deficits may have gotten a little muddled. In short, it's hard to convince a crowd that you're being funded like a pauper when you're feeding them like kings.

Take a closer look at President Sweet's address, and you'll soon discover that the free post-speech luncheon isn't the only mixed message that the university is sending.

Intertwined in the list of accomplishments and goals are a representative handful of financial faux pas that characterize the inability of the president to properly prioritize which "investments" the university should be making during times of financial hardship.

Yes, YSU representatives returned from Italy, Taiwan and China with signed slips of paper pledging "partnership." But while Dean George McCloud was touring China and Student Trustee Charity Pappas was eating biscotti, YSU students were working extra hours to compensate for tuition hikes.

Sweet even touted the increase in student wages as an accomplishment. Hint: the wage increase was paid for by a tuition increase. Raises don't mean jack when you're paying for them yourself.

The West Campus Gateway project, an All-Steinway school, the Smoky Hollow revitalization, the Youngstown Early College, new university archives—all wonderful projects. They are all also not priorities or necessities when their establishment leads to even higher tuition.

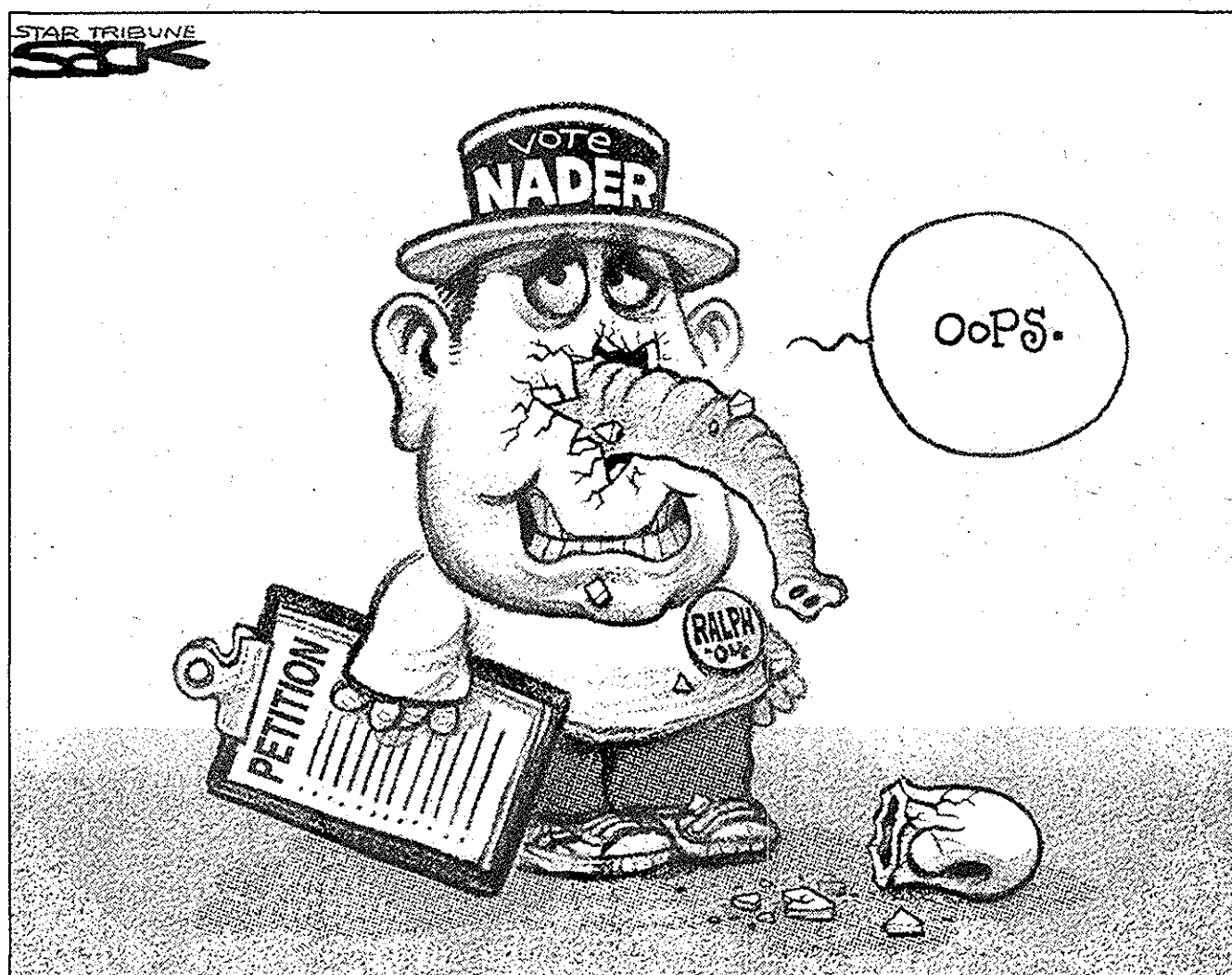
Though President Sweet may be a brilliant fundraiser, he is less impressive as a businessman and an economist. Common sense dictates that when money is tight, a nation, a state, a city, a university, an individual must respond by cutting back in spending. When money is tight, misinvestment is just as dangerous as disinvestment.

For the Mahoning Valley to buy into the argument that state funding cuts are excessive, Sweet must remain above reproach when it comes to his use of YSU's financial resources. This practice must take place not only in the boardroom, but in the hotel room as well.

Cocktail parties in the President's loge may loosen the wallets of select donors, but those who are truly concerned for the future of our university will just as graciously accept a can of Coke as they will a Jack and Coke.

Approximately one year from now, President Sweet will deliver his sixth "State of the University Address," and by that time Youngstown State University will have undoubtedly endured yet another reduction in funding from our debt-plagued state. If the president is wise, he will demonstrate through his speech to the YSU community that he is tightening the university's belt in response to the budget cuts rather than loosening it to make room for another serving at the buffet table.

The Jambor editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambor and its Editorial Board members. 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. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. Letters 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.



## Bush's order has odd timing

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER | Knight Ridder

President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld deserve credit for launching, early in their tenure, a reexamination of the U.S. military machine around the world.

A disposition of forces based on a Cold War that ended more than a decade before surely needed to be reviewed. The terror attacks of Sept. 11 only accentuated the need.

But hold the applause: The troop redeployment plan Bush announced in a political speech to a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention smacks more of campaign claptrap than of a well-reasoned bolstering of the nation's defense structure.

If Bush's plan—as described so far—were a school project, it would be graded incomplete. It's not enough to say the United States no longer needs as many troops in Germany, Asia or elsewhere. The other half of that statement has to be where those troops and that military equipment are most needed—and why. Bush didn't fill in that picture.

Such decisions are hard to pin down as the nation sits in the middle of two unfinished wars in Iraq and Afghanistan against murky, transnational terrorist networks.

The United States is relearning the shape of the world since the Sept. 11 attacks highlighted divisions and redrew alliances. It still is testing military strategies to separate the ones worth embracing and those that need to be jettisoned.

U.S. officials know that one of the greatest threats is North Korea, led by the erratic Kim Jong Il. His secret weapons program is thought to have given North Korea a nuclear arsenal that Bush rightly seeks to dismantle.

Yet, by reducing the U.S. troop presence in South Korea, the president's plan would unilaterally give away a huge piece of leverage. The North Korean dictator has long craved fewer American troops next door. Under this plan, he would get his wish without having to dismantle his nuclear-weapons programs under in-person, international auspices.

Bush also seems unconcerned that shrinking the troop presence in Germany could further erode a long-time alliance that is essential in combating terrorism.

With few details and no persuasive argument that the nation would be safer, this plan smacks of an election-season ploy. Bush unveiled it in a campaign speech peppered with shots at Democratic rival John Kerry. Bush and his proxies also hailed the redeployment as a way to improve the lives of soldiers and their families by basing more troops in the United States.

It seems pretty obvious this was an attempt, shortly before military families vote, to defuse the ill will created by prolonged deployments in Iraq. That problem stems not from flaws in the current military structure, but from the Pentagon's bumbling of postwar planning in Iraq.

Why else but to woo military families' votes would Bush introduce a plan that says nothing about Iraq troop levels, while touting moves that would occur long after his current term ends? Watch for hints in coming weeks that redeployed soldiers would just happen to return to U.S. bases in states that Bush needs in November.

Hasn't Bush learned in Iraq that going forward with an incomplete, short-sighted plan can create dangerous problems?

The president must not repeat his mistakes in an election-season rush to remake the military.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### House needs to take action on Bill 81

Editor—  
We are facing an epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control tell us the number of overweight children has doubled since the 1970s. Nearly one out of six children are overweight or obese. The extra weight can have lifelong health consequences, including diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, stroke and cancer.

Annually, obesity related diseases account for more than 300,000 deaths and \$100 billion in treatment costs.

Soon children will go back to school. I encourage our state representatives to go back to work to

help fight the weight epidemic. The Ohio Senate already passed Senate Bill 81, which would adopt model curricula for physical education for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. This will help Ohio kids get the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity five days a week.

Getting kids to move can help to control weight now and create a lifetime of healthy habits. For the vast majority of Americans who do not use tobacco, eating well and exercising regularly are the most effective ways to reduce their cancer risk. Parents who want to find ways to help the entire family make healthy choices can find tips at: [www.everyday-choices.org](http://www.everyday-choices.org).

I ask members of the Ohio House to work swiftly

to pass Senate Bill 81 and help a generation of kids to stay healthy.

—June Ewing  
American Cancer Society Volunteer

#### Government overspends on defense

Editor—  
Before George W. Bush's father became president, one invulnerable submarine could destroy any other country on Earth.

The Cold War ended over 10 years ago. The former Soviet Union split into 15 countries. There are about 300 million people in the U.S. For each of the past 10 years, the U.S. has been spending over

\$300 billion for defense. In other words, the U.S. has been spending over \$1000 per person per year for the last 10 years.

It would take about 17,000 New York City sized terrorist attacks to equal the deaths of World War II. About 3,000 people died in New York on September 11, 2001; WWII killed 50,000,000. One U.S. submarine now has more firepower than all of WWII.

According to page 164 of the 2004 World Almanac, the U.S. defense budget is five times larger than the Russian budget. All western European nations are allies of the U.S.

Still, George W. Bush has obtained large increases in non-terrorist related defense spending.

—Tom Kennedy

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**SWEET**

FROM PAGE 1

including the new bachelor's degree in Forensic Science.

Sweet also praised this past summer's Penguin Parade, a community art project that featured 31 seven-foot-tall sculpted penguins.

"I have witnessed few university activities that have received such uniform support and positive response," he said.

"Plans are under way to take a delegation of penguins to Columbus for display in the State House Rotunda - maybe lobby for a little more state support," he said.

State support for higher education has declined by \$6.5 million since 2000 and another \$8 million could be lost next year after Ohio's temporary 1 percent sales tax expires.

This has contributed to increased tuition, which has increased \$1,700 since fall 2000, Sweet said, noting that YSU's tuition "remains the lowest among comprehensive public universities in Ohio."

"I remain optimistic about the future of YSU and its ability to serve the higher education needs of the Mahoning Valley and beyond," he said.

Twenty-three new full-time faculty members have been hired this year and new classrooms have been

added to Fedor Hall and Maag Library. Additionally, the Youngstown Early College, which has 75 ninth grade students on the second floor of Fedor Hall, "will provide access to higher education to a population otherwise less likely to take advantage of these opportunities," Sweet said.

Also on the horizon are plans to develop 1,000 new parking spaces to replace the Lincoln Deck, a plan to develop Spring Street from Fifth Avenue to the Courtyard Apartments as the campus' Main Street and plans to reopen the Wick Pollock Inn.

Sweet also mentioned in his address, though not by name, the controversy

surrounding William Bruce Neil, the human ecology professor who was found by a conduct committee to have misrepresented his credentials when he was hired by the university in September 2003.

"[W]e of the faculty and staff must commit ourselves to the highest professional standards in the workplace. During the past year, the recently created Professional Conduct Committee addressed its first case thoughtfully and thoroughly," he said.

Sweet then thanked the committee for "recognizing the seriousness of their work and carrying out their charge responsibly."

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ University President David Sweet addresses the crowd during his approximately 40 minute address on the accomplishments of the previous year and his goals for the year to come.

**POLICE**

FROM PAGE 1

Gocala said he could only remember about six instances in his 13 years as chief where property was taken from cars for safe-keeping.

"What happens is, you have a \$2,000 laptop, when you come out it may not be there. They secure it. We're talking items of value," he said.

A review by The Jambar of police reports found that police had not entered a car to secure property since March of 2000. A police report dated March 4, 2000, gave the following account:

A student asked a parking attendant to watch his car because the battery had died and he could not put up the windows. The parking attendant said they could charge the battery, but the student said he did not have enough time and left to take a test. YSU police were called and an officer found \$1.09 in change and a cell phone in plain view. The officer took the items and left a note

for the student. Police believed the student was in high school and at YSU taking a placement test.

Gary Daniels, a spokesperson for the Ohio American Civil Liberties Union said laws vary with different circumstances, but in general, police need some sort of probable cause or a search warrant to enter a vehicle.

**"It's not the government's job to decide whose car should be locked and unlocked."** — Gary Daniels  
Ohio ACLU

"At a minimum, it certainly presents interesting fourth amendment problems. Because even if intentions are good, you do have the problem where police are entering a car uninvited and without a warrant," Daniels said. "It's not the government's job to decide whose car should be locked or unlocked."

Gocala stressed that his department does not make illegal searches and seizures.

"When you look

through the window, it [the property] is in plain view," Gocala said. "What did we search? I guess if you open the door, someone is saying that's a search."

Daniels said the issue extends beyond simply entering cars and securing property. He said he wondered what might happen if police found any illegal contraband inside the car

after entering and decided to go ahead with university discipline or criminal penalties as a result of the search.

Gocala responded, "If there is contraband, by its inherent nature it is illegal to possess. We seize it. As to whether there will be criminal charges would be depending upon a legal review by the prosecutors office because there would be an issue as to how you found it."

He added, "Certainly, if there is an illegal search,

there is no prosecution."

YSU President David Sweet said he thought suspending the practice and reviewing the law was the appropriate action for the university to take. The legal review is being provided by the university's new General Counsel Holly Jacobs under the direction of Vice President of Administration John Habat, Sweet said.

"I'm very proud of our campus police and what they do to maintain what is clearly one of the safest campuses in Ohio," Sweet said. "And Chief Gocala, his officers, I think their intent is the protection of our students and our campus community."

Now, if officers find an unsecured vehicle with property in it, they will attempt to contact the owner, but they will not enter the vehicle, Gocala said.

"If we can't contact the student, we'll patrol it the best we can. I can't have a policeman sit there all day," he said.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

**SEROWIK**

FROM PAGE 1

knowledge of the Green case, and he is the person we feel best met the department's needs," Conser said. He added that Serowik was chosen out of 15 other applicants.

Serowik had already worked as a part-time instructor at YSU since 1993. His personnel file states he has a master's degree in forensic science.

A clause in Serowik's contract for employment at YSU states he must maintain "good standing" as an expert witness in the common pleas courts of Ohio or his contract will not be renewed. He will also undergo yearly evaluations.

Conser said the clause in Serowik's contract is just a precaution and wants to remind others that these are "currently just allegations."

"If he is not vindicated, and as an individual did not properly perform, then we would think his reputation as an expert witness is no longer in good standing," Conser

said. "I don't think it is fair right now to a candidate who has come through the interview process with the best rating to not hire him based on what are just allegations."

The interim chair of the criminal justice department also said he is aware that some students may be weary of a newly hired professor with a questionable background. However, he said he hopes the professor is still "innocent until proven guilty."

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

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FCAN

## WELCOME

FROM PAGE 1

the orientation process and puts on activities geared toward eliminating that stress and acclimating the freshman to their new environment.

Manning said the events, a mixture of informative and fun activities, include a barbecue with student organizations

on hand to answer questions as well as go cart racing and an outdoor movie.

To plan Welcome Week activities, Manning said he and other directors talked with students to see what they would most like to see and to keep in touch with new trends and technology that pertain to college life.

"We want to help them feel better adjusted to this new time in their life and

we're focused on fostering a sense of connection with the college community from day one," Manning said.

Freshman Anna DiBlasio stood in Kilcawley Center with her father, Fred DiBlasio, as they checked out student job listings.

Fred DiBlasio said Welcome Week seemed like something that could

bridge the gap between his daughter's high school days and college experience.

In regards to her fellow freshman, Anna DiBlasio speculated that the activities would provide the assistance and assurance they need.

"I definitely think it will help people feel more welcome and at home so they can start getting into the swing of things," she

said.

On a personal level, Anna DiBlasio said she planned on attending the events in between her classes and was excited about the chance to learn more about the area, the university and her collegiate peers.

Her father reflected on his years at YSU and said Welcome Week appeared to be a helpful tool to facil-

itate the needs of a modern college community.

"It seems like today, it's more about the total experience than just the classroom experience," he added.

The events of Welcome Week begin today and will continue until Friday evening.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

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## ECOLOGY

FROM PAGE 1

program and Robert Campbell, associate professor of human ecology, left the department.

Neil, who was found in June to have misrepresented his credentials by YSU's Professional Conduct Committee, submitted his letter of resignation to YSU officials Aug. 3.

According to a YSU press release, Neil will receive \$30,000 and health and medical benefits through the end of this year. His resignation became effective Aug. 15.

Questions regarding Neil's credentials first surfaced in March when a

Jambar article revealed Neil had received both of his post graduate degrees from the unaccredited LaSalle University in Louisiana. Through the investigation, Neil maintained that he was unaware the university was unaccredited when he received his degrees.

The university investigated Campbell, who has been on paid sick leave since April 5, after allegations were made that he sexually harassed a female student. The findings of the investigation recommended he be fired.

Campbell will remain on paid sick leave for the 2004-05 academic year and receive his base salary

of \$66,296. He will retire in May 2007.

Hassell said the department has already filled one of the positions and expects to send a contract to another candidate by January. Mark Zetts will begin the semester as a hospitality management professor.

Hassell said that despite the problems that occurred in the department in the past year, "the classes are brimming" with students.

"We are eager to move ahead," Hassell said. "We have a fine group of students, and we now have considerable potential for growth."

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991



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## DINING

FROM PAGE 2

Foster said. Dave Pavkovich agrees. He said that early closing times have forced him to eat off campus almost every semester.

"I take mostly night classes, and by the time I get here, there's hardly anything open. I usually end up eating at Little Jimmy's or grabbing something at McDonald's," he said.

Off campus, there are several places for YSU stu-

dents and staff to satisfy hunger pains and caffeine cravings.

Taco Bell, McDonald's and Subway cover the fast food bases. Inner Circle gives students a place to unwind after a full day of class. The Beat and Winslow's Café cater to the health-conscious population at YSU. Little Jimmy's has been serving students for 16 years. Roly Poly Sandwiches, next door to Little Jimmy's, is a new option for students as well.

ALLICYN ROMEO | 330-941-1913

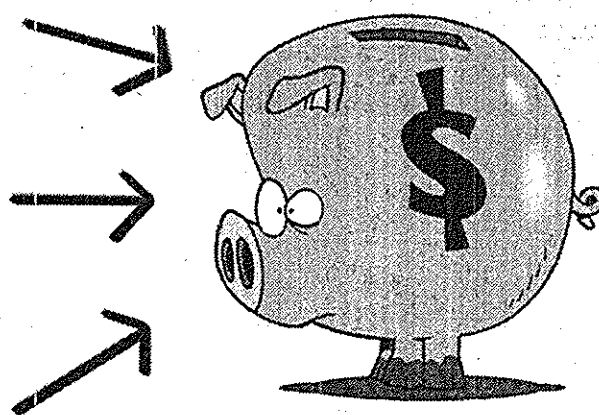
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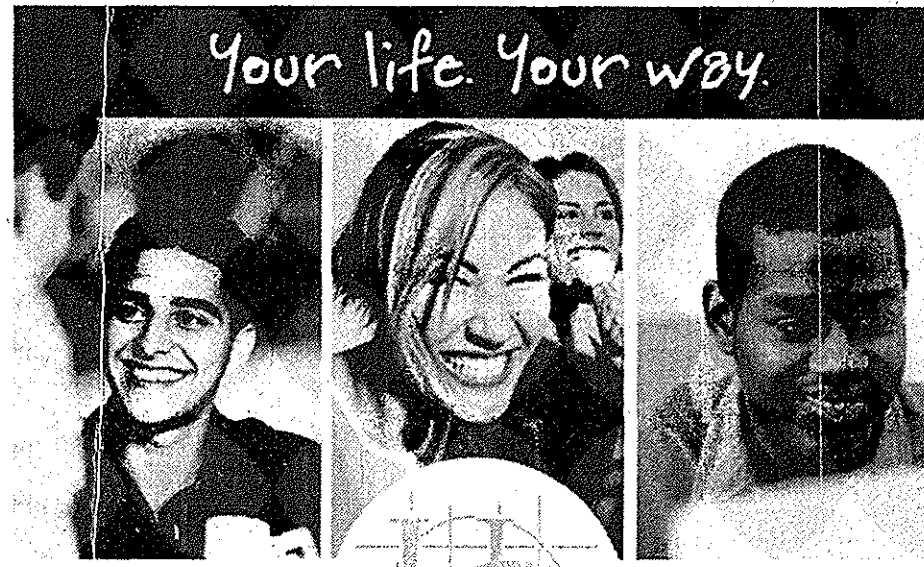
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# sports

## NCAA adds YSU alumnus to its cabinet

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH |  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University athletic department recently added another notch in its collective belt of accomplishments.

Ron Strollo, a 1993 YSU graduate and fourth year Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at YSU, was recently added to the Championship and Competitions cabinet of the NCAA.

The cabinet is part of the NCAA's management council along with the Academic Eligibility

Compliance.

"It's humbling being elected to this panel because it's your peers who nominate you, it's a lot like being voted captain of the football team," Strollo said.

Strollo was selected as the Horizon League's representative to the cabinet and will work alongside about 40 other representatives. Each member represents each Division I conference.

The Horizon League consists of YSU, Butler University, Cleveland State University, University of Detroit, University of

Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Wright State University.

Strollo's tenure as the Horizon League's representative will last four years and will include making some of the most difficult decisions in college athletics.

"We determine brackets for basketball tournaments, seedings and size of brackets in tournaments. We also approve any rule changes to different sports, along with certifying college football bowl

games and choosing sites to hold different sports championships," said Strollo.

Along with enforcing and establishing rules and guidelines to protect the student athlete, the Championship and Competitions cabinet also closely works with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"We are a pipeline to the Olympics, we help ensure that the athletes meet all the regulations the IOC requires be met," Strollo said.

Another aspect Strollo

and the committee tackles are concerns regarding student athlete safety and their health. In the sports world, there is nothing more important than the safety of the athlete, but remembering that is sometimes hard in a competitive environment.

An example of the rules and changes being made to protect the student athlete is the change of long-standing practice guidelines.

The NCAA Championship and Competitions cabinet recently changed guidelines to football sum-

mer camps and practices to reduce the risk of health concerns surrounding summer heat and heat stroke.

Most summer camp practices prior to the rule change permitted consecutive days of doubles, or two practices in one day. The new rule now states that a team can only have doubles every other day with a normal day of practice in between. This was implemented due to many athletes succumbing to the summer heat, which led to serious health problems and sometimes death.

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-1913

## Penguin squad is mix of youth and experience

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH |  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University Penguins kick off the 2004 football season Sept. 2 at Stambaugh stadium and both Coach Heacock and the team are excited about the task at hand.

The Penguins look to return to playoff contention after a four-year hiatus and rebound from a 2003 season that ended 5-7. However, returning to the playoffs will prove a daunting task, as four of YSU's opponents finished in the top 10 last year. The Penguins will look for big plays from their solid nucleus of seniors and returning lettermen.

Summer camp so far has been promising, said fourth year Head Coach Heacock.

"The kids are excited, the coaches are excited. We've gotten a lot of work in and we feel good. We're bigger, stronger and faster," said Heacock.

Part of that excitement is due to a few new faces on

the defensive coaching staff.

Mike Kolakowski, who held the co-defensive coordinator position at the University of Cincinnati, along with Dana Chambers, who was the defensive coordinator at Upper Iowa, will head up the defensive units for the Penguins this season. The Penguins also return a large portion of the defense with 19 returning lettermen.

On the defensive line for the Penguins is the returning Ron John-Finn, who led all defensive linemen with 40 tackles.

A core of experienced linebackers return, including Brandon Brown, Mike Andrews and team leading tackler Yancey Marcum. Marcum led the team last year with 114 total tackles.

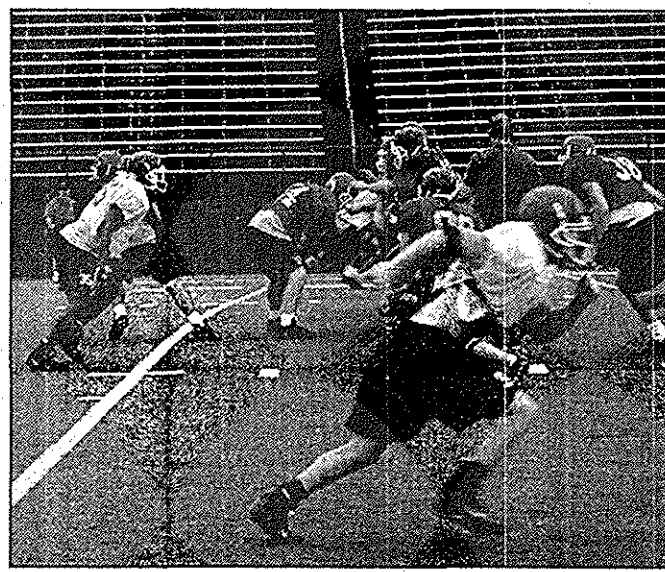
The defensive secondary has been the most depleted position this year after losing three starters who made eight of the Penguins' 13 interceptions. Luckily, the Penguins return three-year letter-

winner Mike Bracken, who was second on the team in tackles last year and was dubbed second team All-Gateway.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Penguins return 17 lettermen. Up front, the line returns three starters in John Bartos III, Norris Kennedy and Ryan Jewell. Bartos returns this year after a 2003 campaign in which he was one of only two Penguins to start every game last season.

The Penguins this year have an abundance of quarterbacks returning with game experience. Taking snaps this year for the Penguins will be the much-heralded Tom Zetts. Zetts returns after last season's home opener injury, which sidelined him for the remainder of the year.

Behind Zetts is Aaron Marshall, junior. Marshall, who threw for 1,316 yards on 111 of 224 passes, looks to add experience to the mix. Penn State transfer Vince Gliatta also looks to add skill to the quarter-



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ The YSU football team practices offensive and defensive drills back spot.

Running the ball for the penguins this season will be returning speed man, Josh Cayson, junior. Cayson last year tallied 707 yards on 135 carries. Kentucky transfer Monquanae Gibson and red-shirt Justin Reams, sophomore, will look to jump in the mix at the tailback spot. At fullback, the Penguins return Demetrius Ison and have moved line-backer Joe Juby to the position.

The Penguins will also return a proven group of wide receivers this year. Phil Larmon, Kyle Smith, Damian Wright and Chris Goffer together combined

for 61 receptions last year. Along with this group, Matt Rycraft, the team's third leading rusher last season, will move outside to help bolster an already accomplished group.

The Penguins are also fortunate to return two all conference special-teamers in punter Joe Bishop and Nick Terracina. Bishop performed solid with a 40-yard average on punts, pinning 19 kicks inside the 20-yard line. Terracina also performed well, kicking 13 of 17 field goals and split the uprights against Liberty University with a school record-setting 56-yard field goal.

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-1913

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Teammate brawl leads to arrest, suspension

A Youngstown State University football player was arrested Aug. 14 for assault and was temporarily suspended from the team after punching a teammate, police said.

Rasul Basit, 20, of Lyden House, punched Anthony Lawrence, 18, also of Lyden House, outside of Christman Dining Hall, police said.

Police said that the two football players were involved in a verbal altercation earlier in the day over a chair that Lawrence usually occupies during team meetings. Several hours later, the two men again began to argue outside of the dining hall, where the assault occurred.

Police said YSU Football Coach John Heacock told Basit to leave Lyden House and return on the first day of school.

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# entertainment

## giant ceramic pigs and poetry slams

BILL RODGERS | *The Jambar*

Cedars Café was packed to the gills last Wednesday.

Jessie Berne, a YSU graduate student in music, sat at a table by the door to the café surrounded by books of poetry, pens, fliers, a sign-in sheet and - oddly enough - a large ceramic pig.

"Hi," Berne said brightly, smiling. "Are you going to be one of our readers tonight? You're not? Oh, that is a shame. You may want to find a seat to watch soon, this place is filling up pretty quickly."

She was right; the café was loaded with a very diverse group of people.

At one table, a thugged-out gentleman in a wife-beater and a gold necklace sat, calmly smoking cigarettes, next to a small, meek-looking middle-aged woman in a bright yellow shirt. Collected in every corner of the café was a random assortment of people drinking beer, who occasionally glanced at the empty podium up front.

These people showed up for the 6th annual Pig Iron Press Poetry Slam.

The event is the brainchild of Jim Villani, owner of a printing company in Youngstown. Villani created the Pig Iron Literary and Art Works group that sponsors the event.

Every year, Villani calls upon local and distant poets to compete in the slam in front of a panel of randomly chosen judges. The winner of the event traditionally receives the aforementioned ceramic pig as a trophy, several gift certificates and - of course - bragging rights.

The event started a little late. Finally, Villani stepped to the podium and reread the rules. As an afterthought, he reminded everyone in the audience that they can still buy their 'Dump Bush in '04' pins at the door.

The host of people in the café riotously cheered.

Thirteen poets participated in the event. Their order at the podium was chosen by a lottery. Villani happened to be first. He hunched his shoulders and practically

hugged the microphone as he read a humorous poem about a late-night trip to a Youngstown convenience store.

Villani's poem was awarded a score of 7.25 from the panel of judges.

Next up was Pauline Beck, a small woman who looked like a caricature of a librarian. She rocked back and forth on her heels with her hands in her pockets as she read her poem titled "The Pig, a Reprise." The poem was about her experiences with the Pig Iron Press Poetry Slam.

Her poem expressed some of her frustrations with the event. Beck said that her friend can read a poem with a "richness of soul, no anger and no vulgarity" and get an average score of five while another poet can read a poem filled with curse words and cynicism and get a better score.

In one of those perfect cases of irony, the next poet was the man in the gold chains and wife-beater. His poem, which he recited with a rich, smooth, deep-voiced flow, was about foreplay with his girlfriend. He seemed to be one of the more practiced orators of the evening, but his poem was not well received.

"Thanks for that soft-core porn, Albert," snickered Villani.

The man in the chains calmly smoked a cigarette as he received a score of only 6.25. His friends seemed to be of the opinion that he had been screwed over by the judges.

Bonnie Bennett, a middle-aged pastor's wife, also performed. "I'm in my sixties now," said Bennett, "I've been writing poetry since I was 14."

Bennet said that she decided to attend the slam on a whim.

"I just write for fun. People ask me what style I try for, and I honestly don't know what to tell them."

However, Bennett does have a theory for why she writes poetry.

"A friend told me once that when I set my feelings and experiences down on paper, those experiences become real. Writing is a way of validating what has happened to me," she said.

The winner of the evening's

event was Kurt Ro, a small, college-aged man in faded army pants and black converse sneakers.

"My poem is a tribute to Allen Ginsberg," he said before he began to read. "So if there's any beatniks out there, dig it."

Ro's poem was delivered with a passionate, livid intensity that amazed the crowd in the café. His poem seemed to be one of insight. His ideas and feelings about the world seemed to mirror those of many in attendance at the slam. Ro's power as a poet appeared to lie in his ability to put his finger right on the pulse of his own thoughts.

Ro wrote about his feelings as he watched the evening news.

"They give you one shot of Columbine followed by a pint of 9-11, and never mind the hangover," Ro said in the poem. "It's true that I take my chemical sacraments with the Angel Headed hipsters, but I never put any children on the pyre."

Ro's voice rose as he delivered one of the poem's most powerful lines. "If the poets want to change things, they need to start writing words on bullets."

Ro's poem received a standing ovation from many in attendance. His score was an astounding 7.75. After he was done reading, he took his seat as people cheered and clapped him on the shoulder.

Ro talked about his performance after the slam was over. He was sitting in a booth surrounded by empty beer mugs.

"This is my first time doing something like this," he said. "I don't know if anyone could tell, but I was nervous as hell the entire time."

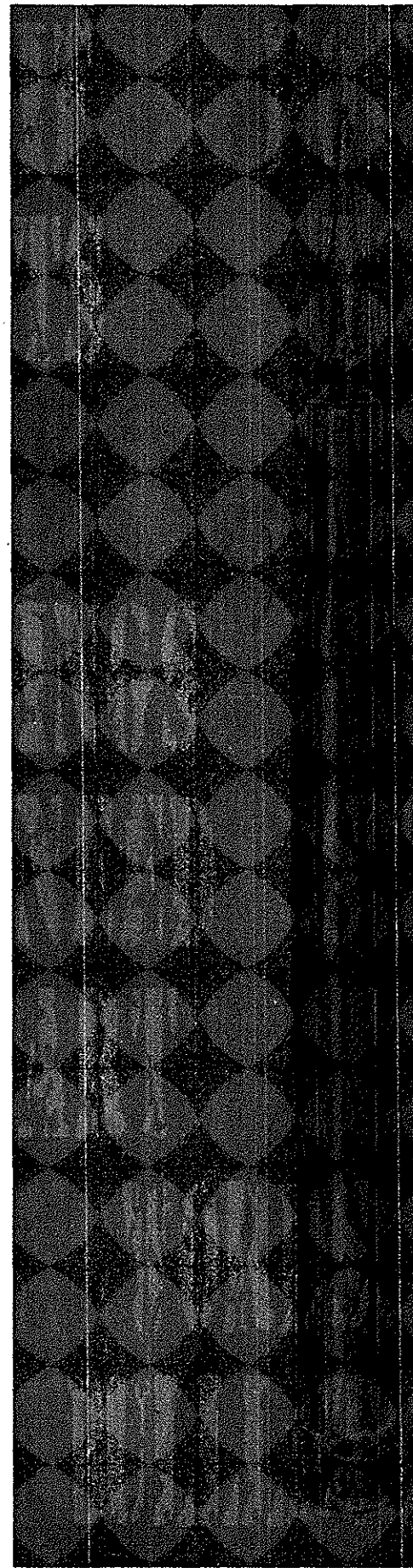
Ro said he was happy with the way his poem was received. He said he intends to start a website to showcase his poetry.

Villani said that he was disappointed the event had to be held indoors due to the rain, but otherwise thought the slam was a success.

Villani and Pig Iron Press will be hosting the Phelps Street Fair in September.

The event will feature live music, food, street vendors and more art showcases.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758



## In a Garden State of mind



DAN DELUCA | *Knights Ridder Newspapers*

From Count Basie to Redman, from Frank Sinatra to Flip Wilson, from Sarah Vaughan to Philip Roth, my home state has spawned more than its share of cultural luminaries.

But never mind that Jack Nicholson, Lauryn Hill, Paul Robeson, Norman Mailer, Whitney Houston, Kevin Smith, Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Ginsberg, Queen Latifah and Tony Soprano all drew their first breaths in the home of the Joyce Kilmer and Vince Lombardi rest stops.

New Jersey has always been the Rodney Dangerfield of states, a place that, in popular culture at least, everybody would like to get as far away from as possible, "a collection of chemical plants and concrete exit ramps," as Eric Dezenhall puts it in his new thriller set down the Shore, "Shakedown Beach."

Back at the dawn of rock 'n' roll, in "You Can't Catch Me," Chuck Berry imagined evading the cops by using the Turnpike as a runway: "Bye bye, New Jersey, I become airborne." And even fiercely proud native son Bruce Springsteen once fantasized about busting out of the "death trap" and "suicide rap" that imprisoned him.

And on last year's "Hackensack," the sad sack given voice by the Fountains of Wayne's Chris Collingwood pines away in his north Jersey hometown. "Sometimes I wonder where you are, probably in L.A./That seems to be where everybody else ends up these days."

New Jersey is often depicted as a place that needs to be transcended to make big dreams come true. It's most definitely not New York, or even Philadelphia, but now there's also an argument being made, in art houses and elsewhere, that that's not such a bad state to be in, after all.

Last year's charming and intelligent "The Station Agent" - now out on DVD - told the tale of a trio of emotional misfits, centered on charismatic dwarf Peter Dinklage, who learn to enjoy each other's company amid the stereotype-smashing greenery of northeastern Jersey.

This summer's charming but stupid stoner comedy "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle" is about two Hoboken-residing Asian-American buddies on a mythical quest from New Brunswick to Princeton to Cherry Hill, in quest of what their marijuana-

induced munchies lead them to believe is the Holy Grail of fast-food joints.

And in the charming but slight "Garden State," "Scrubs" star and real-life Jersey boy Zach Braff directs himself as Andrew Largeman, a heavily medicated Hollywood actor who returns home for his mother's funeral. In South Orange, he finds Method Man working as a hotel peep-show operator, and, in the middle of Newark, an "infinite abyss" that he's led to by his stoner buddy, played by Peter Sarsgaard. These very different movies share a sensibility, in part, with the editors of *Weird N.J.* magazine, who tell tales of mysterious blobs appearing in Little Egg Harbor and U.F.O.-shaped houses in Willingboro and are dedicated to determining "why the density of peculiarities about this little state of ours is so omnipresent."

When a movie is set in New Jersey - and there are some great ones, with my personal top five being "Atlantic City"; "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai"; "Baby, It's You"; "The King of Marvin Gardens"; and "Chasing Amy" - it usually means it's about "real" people, ordinary oddballs who don't live in some flashy metropolis, and must struggle to come to terms with their identities. In "Buckaroo," in which Jeff Goldblum plays a character named New Jersey, Peter Weller gives Ellen Barkin this Zen advice for the alienated: "No matter where you go, there you are."

In "The Station Agent," Dinklage's character needs to let down his guard and lose some of his anger at the world while walking the rails in bucolic Passaic County. John Cho's Harold and Kal Penn's Kumar must satisfy their hunger before facing up to big issues about attending medical school and asking out the hot girl who lives down the hall. "Eating those delicious burgers," Harold exults, "made me feel like a new man."

And in "Garden State," Braff's 26-year-old Largeman needs to get over his generational crisis by learning to feel comfortable with himself, even when he's not taking Lithium. That accomplishment is made easier by Natalie Portman, there to prove Tom Waits' adage true: "Nothing matters in the whole wide world/When you're in love with a Jersey girl." With her help, he achieves the enlightened state that natives of the Garden State strive for: being happy to be home in New Jersey.

## Coming year packed with campus performances

BILL RODGERS | *The Jambar*

The Arts and Theater Department at YSU have a busy year lined up ahead of them. Seven plays are scheduled for the year as well as a performance from the YSU Dance Ensemble.

The plays cover a range of styles and genres, providing the theater department with a balanced playbill for the year.

The first play of the season, *Romance in D*, is a Second Stage production and the students undertake most of the work for the play. There are normally two Second Stage productions each year.

*Romance in D* shows Sept. 9 through 12 and is a romantic comedy about a budding love affair with a musician and a depressed poet in present-day Chicago. The play takes on the serious tones of drama as the characters struggle with child custody and depression.

Showing Oct. 7 through 10 and Oct. 15 through 17 is *Side Man* by Warren Leight. The play is a drama that follows a jazz-musician who finds himself at the end of the big band era. The main character struggles with the changing times as he's thrown into the unfamiliar world of rock 'n' roll.

William Shakespeare's classic *A Comedy of Errors* will be showing Nov. 11 through 14 and Nov. 19 through 21. The main theme of the play is mistaken identity. During the play, two twin brothers, separated from one another for 25 years, meet for the first time in the town of Ephesus.

The department's second Second Stage production is a play by Edward Albee titled *All Over*. The play centers on a group of people gathered in the home of a dying man. As they wait for news of the man's passing, they swap stories

about how he affected each of their lives. The play shows from January 27 through 30.

Anything Goes by Timothy Crouse and John Weidman is a "screwball comedy" from the 1930s about a random assortment of passengers on an ocean liner. The comedy is part musical, featuring songs from the 1930s. Anything Goes will be performed Feb. 24 through 27 and March 4 through 6.

Spinning into Butter is a drama by Rebecca Gilman that shows April 1 through 4 and April 8 through 10. It follows the life of a college dean who is trying to deal with an incident of racism that occurred on her campus. The play not only explores the dark side of racism, but also of political correctness.

Showing April 15 through 17 and April 22 through 24 is an opera by Gilbert and Sullivan titled *The Pirates of Penzance*. The opera tells about the life of a boy, born on a leap year, who is apprenticed to a group of pirates until his 21st birthday.

To close out the year, from May 5 through 7, the YSU Dance Ensemble will be performing its 14 annual concert under the direction of Christine Cobb. The concert will feature a variety of musical numbers as well as dance styles ranging from Native American, hip-hop, swing and modern jazz.

All YSU theater productions are free to YSU students with their student IDs. General admission for the public is \$10. YSU faculty tickets can be bought for \$5. For more information on the plays, or to make reservations, call the YSU Box Office at (330) 941-3105.

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