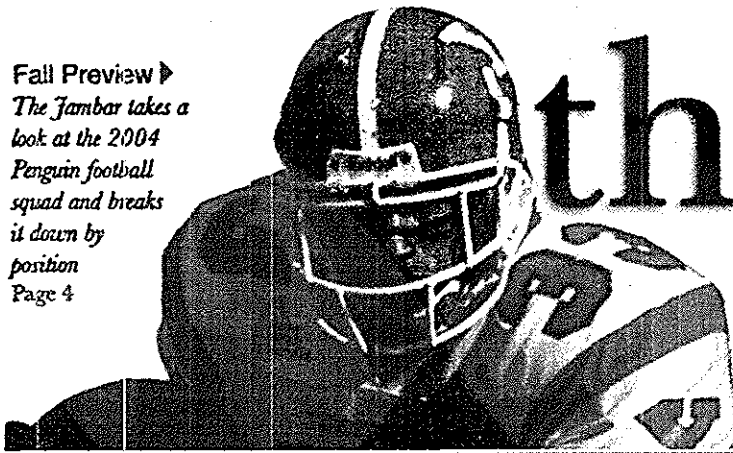


Fall Preview ▶
The Jambor takes a look at the 2004 Penguin football squad and breaks it down by position
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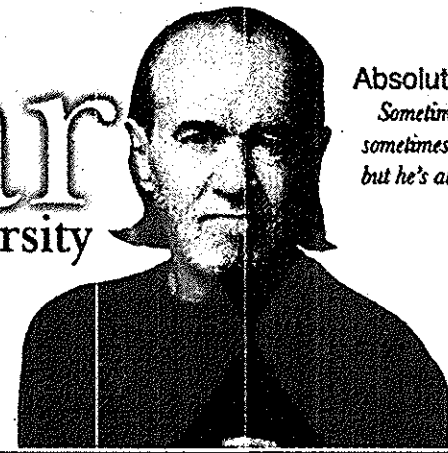
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youngstown state university

A costly mistake ▶
What effects will the abuse of Iraqi prisoners have on Americans in the future?
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Absolute Carlin ▶
Sometimes he's clever, sometimes he's abrasive, but he's always 100% George Carlin
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Thursday

MAY 20, 2004

Weather >> Scattered Storms

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In the red

NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ Summer enrollment shows continued growth

University Spokesman Ron Cole said that the Office of Institutional Research has recorded an increase in enrollment for the eleventh consecutive semester since spring 2001.

As of Monday, 4,726 students were enrolled for summer classes. This number marks a 1.8 percent increase over last summer's enrollment of 4,641 students.

▶ First sculpture of penguin series unveiled

The first penguin sculpture of the Penguin Parade public arts project was unveiled at Youngstown State University May 13.

"Cobalt," named after the new car line from the General Motors Lordstown Complex, is the first of the 31 sculptures being created by the joint project of YSU and the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. Todd P. Fowler created the penguin, which he said was inspired by his father, Robert who painted cars at GM for 35 years. Fowler, a 2002 YSU graduate, used the same automobile paint that is used by GM in creating the penguin.

"Fourth of July," created by Lynn Anderson and sponsored by B.J. Alan Fireworks, will be the next unveiled on June 26 at the grand opening of the new Phantom Fireworks store in North Lima. The remaining completed penguins will be revealed during the Summer Festival of the Arts on YSU campus July 10 and 11.

▶ Oakland Center musical highlights fundraiser

The Oakland Center for the Arts will present "The Last Five Years," a musical by Jason Robert Brown, on Saturday, May 22 as part of its annual fundraiser.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by Chinese and silent auctions, with the show immediately following at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for a pre-paid reservation and \$30 at the door. For more information or reservations, call (330) 746-0404.

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Officials launch two investigations

By Michael J. Balale
THE JAMBAR

University officials and officers from several different police departments are investigating two separate situations on campus — one involving stolen student checks and another centering on allegations that an employee released false student record information.

The financial aid investigation comes weeks after several students, including David Lynn, reported that they never received checks that were intended for them as part of their financial aid packages.

In the second investigation, Darryl Adams, who worked in the Payroll Office as a financial service analyst, was suspended May 3 and university officials are saying little about the specifics of the case.

University Spokesman Ron Cole said the Bursars Office and the YSU Police are investigating the allegations against Adams.

Cole and other university officials said they do not believe the two cases are connected.

Cole said several students have reported missing funds. "There have been about 12 student refund checks that have been attempted to be fraudulently cashed," Cole said.

Police and university officials are now trying to piece together a paper trail to document what became of thousands of dollars in federal loan money that belonged to YSU students. Officials, however, are not saying much about their efforts or what they have learned.

Lynn, however, said he is tired of keeping quiet about the incident. He said that university officials had warned him not to speak to reporters about the situation.

"I told them I wanted to tell the media and they said to give them a chance to deal with it before I go tell anybody," Lynn said.

Lynn said he is frustrated and outraged and has been

seeking answers of what became of his \$3,600, which he said has been missing since April.

"My mom spoke to someone from administration and they said, 'oh yeah. We know about the problem. Just wait. We're going to do something about this,'" Lynn said. "We've tried to have faith with them. But all we want is for them to take some responsibility."

Lynn said he does not believe officials are trying to get to the bottom of the situation. "At YSU, people think they are entitled to things because they are an institution and they can get away with it," he said. "They keep their noses up and they hike up our tuition."

Lynn said his mother missed a day of work to try to unravel the mystery of what became of his check. "I want to know who has access to our checks, who is getting them, how this happened and it's now been two months and they still haven't done anything."

Lynn said he has a copy of the cashed check and he

see OFFICIALS, page 2

Commencement marks new start for graduates

1,988 degrees given during this academic year's ceremonies

By Chuck Rogers
THE JAMBAR

A handshake, a piece of paper and the moving of a tassel from one side of the cap to the other marked a new beginning for more than a thousand Youngstown State University students Saturday.

The university's spring commencement exercises were held at 10 a.m. in Beeghly Center, where 1,035 graduates received their degrees.

The commencement's keynote address was delivered by Judy G. Hample, chancellor of the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education. Hample, chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania's 14-university system, received an honorary degree from YSU during the ceremony.

Heather Voris, who earned her bachelor's degree in medical illustration, was the student speaker at the commencement.

Year	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
2003-2004	1,988	1,258	3,246
2002-2003	1,865	1,211	3,076
2001-2002	1,844	1,211	3,055
2000-2001	1,823	1,211	3,034
1999-2000	2,010	1,132	3,142
1998-1999	1,992	1,132	3,124
1997-1998	1,991	1,132	3,123
1996-1997	2,015	1,132	3,147
1995-1996	2,008	1,132	3,140
1994-1995	2,074	1,132	3,206

Some firsts that highlighted the graduation:

- Adrienne Tomczyk of Pulaski, Pa., is the first undergraduate student to receive a certificate in American Humanities at YSU. The certificate program prepares students to become leaders in non-profit organizations. Tomczyk received her bachelor's degree in psychology.
- The first 10 students from the School of Technology's new associate degree program in technical studies received their degrees. The program trains students to work as line-workers for electrical utility companies.

The spring graduates, added to the 445 from the summer and 508 from the fall, bring the total to 1,988 degrees conferred in the 2003-2004 academic year, according to the university's Office of Records.

This is the fourth consecutive academic year that YSU has seen an increase in the number of students graduating. YSU president David Sweet credits the university's focus on enrollment and student retention for the increase.

"Add the record number of new students to the higher number retained," he said. "What that leads to, inevitably, is an increased number of students graduating."

Enrollment has been on the rise for the last eight semesters, Sweet said.

see GRADS, page 2



▲ Above: Graduates from the Bitone College of Health and Human Services celebrate commencement by adding a special flare to their caps.

Photo: Jim Evans, Office of Marketing and Communications

Committee refuses comment on Human Ecology professor case

By Michael J. Balale
THE JAMBAR

After a meeting that lasted nearly three hours, members of the professional conduct subcommittee refused comment about the future of a Human Ecology professor who earned his higher degrees from an unaccredited institution.

Richard Walker, subcommittee chairman, refused to allow reporters to attend Monday's closed-door meeting in Bliss Hall and declined comment about what was discussed. The subcommittee was formed to investigate William Bruce Neil, who was hired after earning his master's and doctoral degrees from a university that was not accredited.

Neil is teaching two classes this summer, earning \$20,250 but did not return phone calls from a Jambor reporter. In the past, he has said that he earned his degrees and expects to be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Walker said the committee has not yet made any decisions or issued any recommendations to Joseph Edwards, chair of the professional conduct committee.

University Spokesman Ron Cole also declined comment about the case against Neil, but said Monday's meeting dealt with a preliminary review of facts. Cole said the committee would probably have another meeting before a recommendation is given to the professional conduct committee.

"I don't feel real comfortable talking about anything but my understanding is that the meeting was an organizational review by the committee," Cole said.

The five-member sub-committee includes Rick Walker, Jane Kestner, associate dean of Arts and Sciences; Helene Savage, accounting and finance professor; Chris Sweeney, a psychology professor; and Nancy Mosca, a nursing professor.

Director of Human Resources Hugh Chatman has said Walker's team has until June 21 to determine whether the human ecology professor falsified his credentials and what action should be taken.

Questioning began in March after The Jambor reported

that Neil received his master's and doctoral degrees from La Salle University, a distance-learning institution in Louisiana once shut down by the FBI.

The Neil situation sparked a debate about who is responsible for checking the credentials of potential employees of the university.

Jean Hassell, chair of human ecology and a member of the search committee that recommended Neil be hired, told a Jambor reporter in March that checking the educational background of a potential candidate is "not something that's normally done," and "you don't really check universities."

Director of Human Resources Hugh Chatman later said that it has been "past practice" for search committees to check the credentials.

Last month, however, administrators said they resolved the issue by hiring the Dayton-based company Gall & Gall to verify Neil's credentials and those of all future candidates.

The Gall & Gall report showed that Neil's past employment history could not be verified.

Members of the professional conduct committee and the subcommittee would not comment about whether that research would be taken into consideration in the investigation.

Last month, Neil provided the chair of the professional conduct committee with several documents he said he created, including study guides, his master's thesis and his 24-page doctoral dissertation.

After the sub-committee gives their results to Edwards and the professional conduct committee, Edwards and his staff can make a variety of recommendations to university officials, including disciplinary action.

Associate Professor of English Mike Finney said the committee should not have that much responsibility and said it may be a conflict of interest if a faculty member were disciplined by a panel that includes other faculty members.

see NEIL, page 2

Gas prices pump student billfolds dry

By Elizabeth Tabak
THE JAMBAR

The steady rise in gasoline prices is causing some students to tighten up on their wallets.

As gasoline prices across the country and in the Mahoning Valley continue to skyrocket, hitting nearly two dollars a gallon at some pumps, some students are saying the high cost is deterring them from driving around town and changing their summer travel plans.

One student even questioned whether the high prices made it worth his commute to summer classes.

Sophomore Donald Hays Jr. said the cost of filling his gas tank two to three times a week is becoming too costly. Hays, a student and Youngstown State University escort, makes a 40 minute drive from Rogers five days a week. This, he said, is costing him up to approximately \$75 a week.

"I think this is completely outrageous," Hays said. "I had to review my finances because I almost couldn't work up here or take classes."

Further, Hays said he was planning on making road trips to several states in order to visit friends, but has now had to limit the number.

"Even with two jobs, this is still putting a great strain on my wallet," Hays said.

Another YSU escort, junior Sam Gugliotti, said he has had to cut back on his social life because of the \$30 or more he spends on filling his gas tank weekly. Though Gugliotti makes the 15-minute commute to YSU daily, he says he is thankful that he does not have to commute farther like some of his friends.

"I heard prices are supposed to hit three dollars by Memorial Day," Gugliotti said. "I hope that doesn't happen because that will seriously effect my plans of driving to the east coast somewhere this summer."

Junior Crystal Hall said she is having the same problem.

Hall said she and her sister had made plans to drive to Florida this summer. However, she said she is afraid that they will fly instead in order to cut some costs.

"With the way the prices are, it might just be cheaper to fly down there," Hall said. "It really has

see GAS, page 2

In the news

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOMB THREAT
In the morning hours of May 14, Youngstown State University Police officers responded to a call regarding a break-in of the Ohio Edison Storage Trailer near the Ohio Edison outdoor classroom. Officers observed three black males near a pickup truck outside of the trailer. Two of the suspects fled and were not captured, and the third was detained by officers and is being held on bond in the Mahoning County Jail. Officers found numerous tools from the trailer in the truck. Also found in the truck was drug paraphernalia and a cell phone. The department learned that the truck was reported stolen from Liberty Township.

GRADS continued...

Cynthia Anderson, vice-president for student affairs, said the university is also making a greater effort to help students complete their education.

"There is more assistance given to students entering the university," she said, "through orientation and the Center for Student Progress."

The center keeps close tabs on students and tries to intervene if they run into academic trouble, Anderson said, and a growing number of students are taking advantage of its services.

Anderson also lauded the admissions and financial aid departments for taking more active roles in recruiting students and helping them obtain financial assistance.

"Financial aid is doing much more outreach than in previous years," she said.

According to the Kathy Pokrivnak of the records office, 795 bachelor's degrees were granted this spring, along with 84 associate's degrees, 154 master's degrees and two doctorates.

More than 1,150 students applied for spring graduation. At least 18 degrees are on academic hold, pending thesis submissions or grade changes.

Call Chuck Rogers at (330) 941-1913

GAS continued...

forced to me to keep myself on a budget."

Hall, originally from Twinsburg, said the distance back home will probably limit the number of trips she makes home to see her family.

"It already costs me about \$20 three times a week, I can't really afford trips home every weekend," Hall said.

The financial burden of fuel is forcing a few students to make only the necessary trips around town in order to fend off high prices.

One student, freshman Ali Green, said she "probably won't drive anywhere unless it is to work" at the Kilcawley Center Candy Counter. Green, who drives from East Liverpool three days a week, said the commute takes about \$40 away from her weekly, but has not cut into her spending habits.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-1991.

OFFICIALS continued...

said there are many indicators that should have raised issues when it was being cashed.

"It was cashed on a third-party basis, endorsed by someone else, and they even spelled my name wrong," Lynn said.

University Vice President for Administration John Habat said he is aware of both issues but said he has not seen or heard of any evidence that would indicate that the two situations are related.

"That would be entirely speculative and nobody has been able to connect the two of them," Habat said.

Habat said that the university has a solid control system and that these are minimal incidents of foul play and vowed that he is confident that everything will end up in order in the end.

"Something is going on with our checks but we have a good

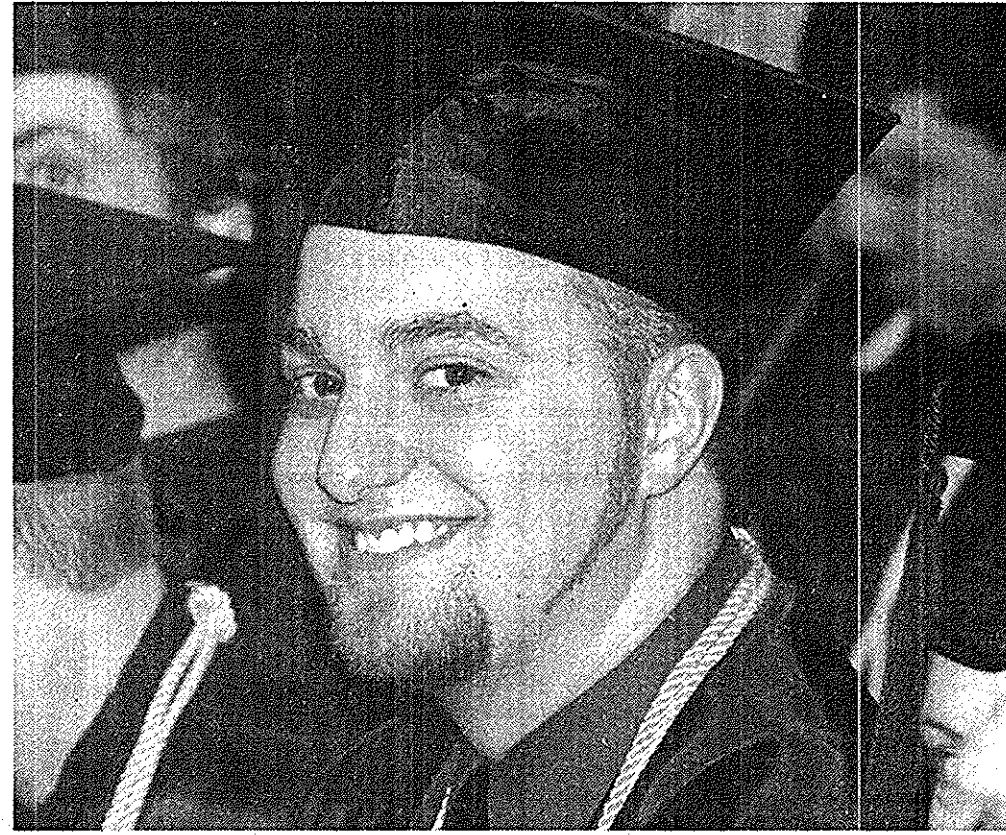


Photo: Jim Evans, Office of Marketing and Communications

▲ Above: Graduate Marty Whitmore enjoys commencement day festivities

record and we are right on this," Habat said. "It's an isolated incident but I'm certain there is more than one check. I've heard the number of 10 to 12."

The Ohio State Highway Patrol, Youngstown State University Police and other law enforcement agencies are probing situations where people cashed or tried to cash YSU checks in three states.

At least one person was arrested so far in the investigation and the officer involved in the arrest said he believes that the checks may have been stolen from a Youngstown State University employee.

Peter Brickey, the arresting officer from the Bexley Police Department, a suburb of Columbus, said he is aware of three pending cases involving stolen checks. Brickey said he was told that the checks may have been stolen from someone work-

ing at YSU and if the scandal is internal, it is up to YSU to fix it.

"It sounds like a case where it has been done within the institution and if they were stolen from the university, it's up to the university to take the next step so it doesn't happen again," Brickey said.

"People at your college believe they have somebody from the university who is stealing the checks."

Referring to the arrest in Bexley, Brickey said bank tellers called the police department after a man who allegedly cashed a stolen check on a previous visit to the bank tried to cash another check at the same branch.

"The gentleman tried to cash a legitimate YSU check in the drive-through and he was caught and we did make an arrest," Brickey said.

Brickey refused to comment on that case or others and said

police are still investigating.

The Adams investigation is also being treated as a pending case with officials refusing to release much information.

University Spokesman Cole said officials confiscated Adams' computer and have been searching it for evidence, but Cole refused to answer any additional questions, saying it is a pending investigation.

Adams began working at YSU in 1998 and was earning \$42,000 per year. In 2002, he was appointed to serve on the university's operations improvement project formed to identify ways to improve operating efficiency and reduce costs at YSU.

Adams served on the technology subcommittee of that task force.

Call Michael J. Balale at (330) 941-1989

Bomb threat forces UC evacuation

Staff Report
THE JAMBAR

Maintenance workers and YSU Police Officers woke residents of the University Courtyard Apartments the morning of Tuesday, May 11 with an order to evacuate.

The evacuation came as a result of an anonymous bomb threat called in to University Courtyard Assistant Manager Shannon Lombardo.

According to the police report, the caller told Lombardo "I am gonna blow your f--- building," and then hung up. Lombardo stated in the report that she did not recognize the voice.

The report stated that three officers reported to buildings one and two of the Courtyard Apartments, evacuated all tenants and personnel and conducted a search of both of the buildings. Sgt. Mike Cretella, one of the reporting officers, said that after approximately one hour of searching, the officers and University Courtyard maintenance workers were unable to locate anything suspicious, and the tenants were able to return to their apartments.

Cretella said this is not the first instance of a bomb threat regarding a YSU building. He added that there is an ongoing investigation, and the YSU police "are working on a couple of leads."

NEIL continued...

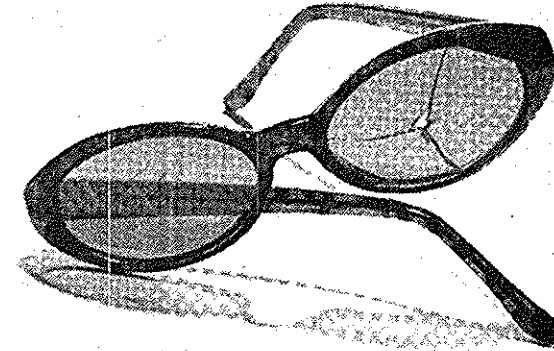
"I don't think it is appropriate that members of the bargaining unit can make a recommendation regarding disciplinary action for other members of the collective bargaining unit," Finney said.

Call Michael J. Balale at

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EDITORIAL OPINION

-an editorial-

Treatment of prisoners an embarrassment to Americans

Over the past few weeks, the story of Iraqi prisoner abuse by American soldiers in the Abu-Ghraib prison has unfolded on the front page of nearly every major international newspaper.

Photos of nude prisoners positioned in degrading positions accompanied by grinning American soldiers have become standard tabloid fodder. These photos have made Abu-Ghraib, a prison formerly synonymous with the torture and abuse under the reign of Saddam Hussein, now known as America's own monument of shame.

The soldiers' actions have undermined the cause of the Americans rebuilding Iraq, and have further tainted our image in a place where great distrust for Americans already exists.

The abuse of these Iraqi prisoners has placed American soldiers and civilians in danger of further hostilities and recriminations for these offenses. Iraqi insurgents have already claimed one life in retaliation last week when they beheaded American civilian Nicholas Berg, and fed the images live to hundreds of watching people.

The embarrassment of the images is magnified by the inability of those involved to take the blame. Once again, much like the 911 commission, it has become a game of pin the tail on the donkey, throwing the responsibility from one group to another.

Until Wednesday, the soldiers involved in the abuse at Abu-Ghraib took no responsibility. They pointed fingers at top intelligence officials, claiming the abuse was ordered as a method of "softening" Iraqi prisoners for questioning. The officials, in turn, placed the blame squarely on the heads of the soldiers involved.

Spec. Jeremy C. Sivits was the first of the seven members of the American military that will stand trial for the abuses. Sivits pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year in prison and a bad conduct discharge.

Though it took some time, Sivits made the right decision. He took responsibility where others did not, and more importantly, plead for forgiveness from the prisoners he abused and the Iraqi people.

American forces were sent to Iraq under the premise of saving the Iraqi people from the terror and destruction of Hussein. They were supposed to help re-establish the Iraqi government and rebuild their country. Instead, they are sending the same message of contempt for humanity that Hussein did.

America now has to work on rebuilding its image, as well. We must show the world that we hold our own people as accountable as we do foreign leaders. It is time that each individual responsible step forward and take their blame.



Don't legislate thought

By Anne Kim
THE SEATTLE TIMES/NEKI/SRI CAMPUS

David Horowitz and his national college conservative group, Students for Academic Freedom, are waging war against so-called liberalism on college campuses.

They say their classes are biased and their voices aren't heard. They want amends for what they see as a major problem in academia: a disproportionately large percentage of liberal academics, which they say is preventing true intellectual diversity.

So Horowitz and Students for Academic Freedom (SAF) are pushing nationwide legislation, called the Academic Bill of Rights, to provide more-balanced perspectives in college curricula, and to end what they say is the "indoctrination" of students by instructors who tout their political agendas in class.

One such bill died in the Washington state House in the last legislative session. That deserves a huge sigh of relief.

The Academic Bill of Rights - a template for which is posted on SAF's Web site - is just another example of legislation touting universal benefits that is actually rife with sensationalized assumptions and negative repercussions.

There simply is no need - and many potential pitfalls - to monitor instructors' political ideologies.

Universities aren't perfect, and of course, poor educators exist. But a person's political affiliation isn't a typical marker for the way he or she teaches. It's ridiculous to assume that because a professor holds liberal political ideologies, that he or she intends to indoctrinate students.

Many of my instructors, for example, flat-out avoid inserting their perspectives even on class material, often because they want students to come to their own conclusions.

Some people justify monitoring professors' political ideologies by arguing that the political diversity of the state isn't reflected in college and university classrooms. More specifically, they say class reading lists aren't balanced.

Yet, this is a narrow understanding of balance. According to Doug Wadden, Senate Chair of the UW Faculty Senate, diversity of perspectives isn't limited to political views, but includes, for example, historical, cultural or gendered analyses.

Regardless, even if we're talking about political viewpoints, most students I've talked with say their instructors provide balanced perspectives. For example, while a humanities course may criticize globalization, a business course may praise it.

In my courses, instructors include both their own as well as opposing perspectives on reading lists to expose students to the various academic discourses within their fields.

Indeed, students should be aware of the academic debates around a subject. But an instructor is not the news media. As a student, I'm not paying for objectivity. I'm paying for their expertise and ability to teach me critical-thinking skills.

Students also have a responsibility to contribute perspectives to academic discourse. Professors shouldn't have to spoon-feed students.

An Academic Bill of Rights would impose too many guidelines on instructors. We wouldn't receive a quality education because professors would be too busy worrying about this new mandate to offer all sides of every issue.

This could result in a return to what most of us had in our K-12 education: watered-down courses and a lack of time to go in-depth or to study controversial topics. It is often this controversy that helps students like me learn more actively by questioning their own assumptions.

The autonomy of the professor is valued as a fundamental right by universities. It is this freedom that allows diverse ideas to emerge. Of course, instructors should act responsibly and focus their courses on the subject and not infuse unrelated political controversy simply for their own gain.

But the attempt to legislate the ways instructors teach jeopardizes their autonomy to do so, regardless of intent.

All this said, however, I realize that conservative students aren't just making this stuff up. In my own classes, only one or two students express strong conservative viewpoints.

But does this mean that students aren't receiving the education they're paying for? I doubt it. Does this mean their viewpoints are suppressed by a domineeringly liberal academic culture? I've never seen a professor, liberal or conservative, discourage students from raising challenges.

Personally, I like having conservative students in class to debate ideas - it's invaluable.

It's positive that SAF and other conservative students around the nation's campuses are voicing concerns about what they see as liberal bias. Every campus battling this issue should debate it and find solutions to balance views.

But legislation regulating academic thought and teaching surely isn't the answer. The Academic Bill of Rights is unnecessary, unwarranted and poses dangerous implications.

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

We want to hear from you...
email us at:
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lies catching up with the President

Editor:

In reference to Mr. Zimmerman's letter of April 28th:

In his first letter he raised doubts about another letter writer's military service. That sounds like questioning a person's "patriotism."

Patriotism or military service should never be part of an argument about how good or bad our politicians are behaving.

He made statements the Administration has alleged but have since proved groundless. I see no evidence to support them.

The fact is that Bush lies. He lies about nearly everything he tells the public. Look at what he says then look at what he is actually doing. That is evidence enough.

There are books like "Perfectly Legal" by David Cay Johnston that deals with our taxes; "The Lies of George W. Bush" by David Corn deals with the numerous lies he tells; "Bushwacked" by Molly Ivins gives background of GW all the way back to his school days.

Listen to Scott Ritter, David Kay, and Hans Blix. They are. They know that there are no WMDs.

France, Germany and Russia may have thought there were some WMDs but they didn't feel it warranted a preemptive strike on Iraq. They believed that diplomacy, and the inspections, would have eventually shown that.

The push for war by Bush caused terrorists to GO to Iraq, where they had not been before, and we are now stuck in a morass that will last for many years. I believe the draft will start up after elections are over, as a result.

As for Clinton, he is not germane to this

argument - this is about Bush.

NGOs are keeping the stats on casualties because our government refuses to count the dead or injured Iraqis. The estimates are somewhat conservative. Thankfully others, including our allies in Iraq, feel it is important.

We are less safe today. Iraq was not an imminent threat, and even the administration is trying to back away from that argument. The fact that this war is going to cost billions for many years will continue to make us less safe.

-Susan Easter, Senior IT

Bush's priorities are questionable

Editor:

For many people, it's puzzling that John Kerry hasn't zoomed ahead of Bush in opinion polls - in light of the body count, which is ever rising. However, it could be something as simple as Bush doing a good job. For example, on global warming, I had my concerns - but when Bush said we were going to Mars Man! That was a load off my mind. Okay, not all of us will make the trip - and certainly not me - way too expensive - but for those with tax cuts - and job not exported overseas - the excursion will be cinch.

And, really, I'm not too depressed about being left behind because less people means less pollution - and certainly by lift off date, the Republican Economic Recovery will have kicked in.

Hey! Come to think of it, Bush is a genius! The Ozone will be fine! Cause cars can't have emissions, if you can't afford gas to drive them.

And enough already on Bush's military career! Just remember, he made public 400 plus pages of

his military record. He had to be on duty - Heck! In my 15 years in the Navy, stationed with the Army, Air Force, and Marines - traveled all over the Far East - shook during Cuban Missile Crisis, and yet, my entire military record - medical included - is less than a 150 pages. Two tours in Vietnam - one training the Vietnamese on weaponry - did not garner me such a copious record of 400 plus pages! Bush was outstanding! - And evidently was on a secretive flying mission when no one knew where he was - not even his commanding officer! That's big time secret stuff. And I'm sure when its all been declassified, Bush'll tell the whole story as he will concerning WMD.

-Ted Williams, YSU Grad 1995

Commencement lacked decorum

Editor:

Yesterday I received my second degree from YSU. This letter is in regard to the lack of etiquette displayed by the audience in attendance that morning. At times I could not determine if I was at a college commencement or the Dawg Pound.

The first time I graduated here, we did not individually go up on stage and receive our diplomas. Each school was called, arose and was recognized by the audience. The ceremony was short, sweet and civilized.

YSU should consider going back to that format at future commencements. Why waste time calling the graduates up one by one, if most of their names cannot be heard over the buffoons in stands whooping it up?

-J. Delco, Class of 80 and 04

Sports & Entertainment

Penguin Football Preview 2004

By Mark Stevens
THE JAMBAR

The squad that the 2004 Youngstown State University football team will field might remind a lot of people of last year's version — a team that split equal time with highs and lows and finished a disappointing 5-7 and 2-5 in the Gateway Conference.

There is more than sufficient talent at the skill positions on the offensive side of the ball, just like last year. However, also similar to last year, the offensive line is banged up and weary and the defense has several question marks.

Head coach Jon Heacock faces the challenge of getting all of his talented offensive players their fair share of touches. Putting the right people in the right place in the backfield might be one of the most challenging tasks Heacock and his coaching staff face all season.

At quarterback, there are many talented options to choose from. Incumbent starter Aaron Marshall seems to be the forgotten man in conversations about the quarterback position. The junior from Detroit led the Penguins in total offense last season, accounting for 1,316 yards passing and 254 yards on the ground. He accounted for 15 touchdowns.

Redshirt freshmen Tom Zetts and Vince Gliatta are the two quarterbacks pushing Marshall. Zetts, a local product from Boardman, suffered a broken collarbone in the first game last season and is looking to rebound. Gliatta, a transfer from Penn State, has looked impressive thus far this spring.

Having three options at quarterback means Heacock had to find a new home for senior Matt Rycraft, who was a sparkplug for a sometimes stagnant Penguin offense last season. Rycraft is listed as a wide receiver now and

should also get plenty of chances carrying the ball after showing a knack for getting positive yardage last season.

Junior Josh Cayson returns to the Penguin backfield as the main option at tailback. Last season Cayson showed tremendous athletic ability and big play potential. Joining the home-run threat that is Cayson will be sophomore Justin Reams and transfer Monquatae Gibson.

If the offensive line, led by senior Norris Kennedy and tight end Mike Roberts, can stay healthy and provide some protection, the offense should have no problem scoring points. And they might find themselves in some high scoring match-ups if this year's defense is not improved.

Last year, the Penguin defense had a world of trouble trying to stop opponents' running attacks, giving up 224 yards on the ground per contest. This year, they will also have to contend with a lack of experience in the secondary.

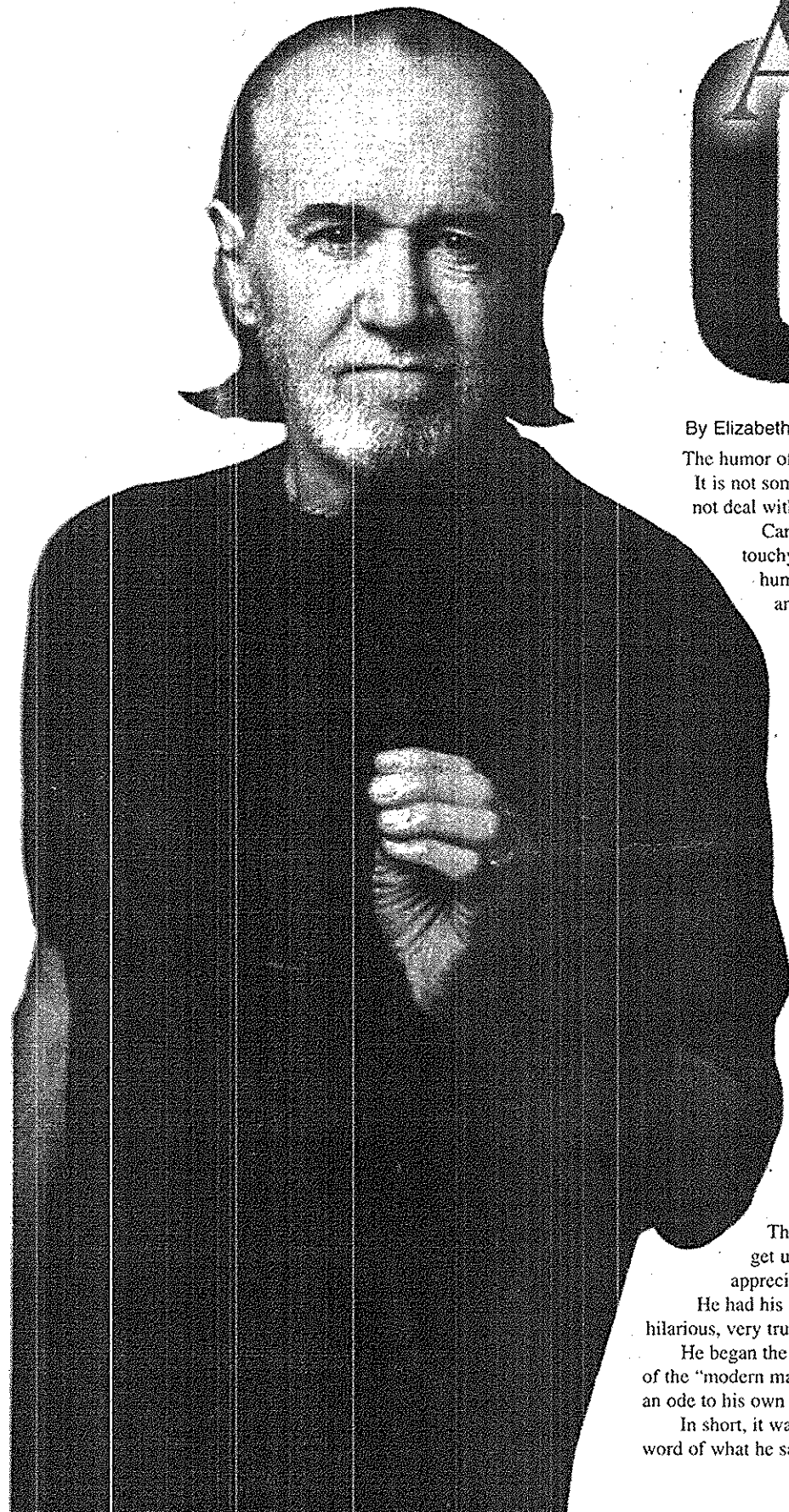
Several players with game experience return to the front seven for the Penguins. That experience was missing from a team that appeared outmatched in the trenches at times last season.

Seniors Nate Baston and Yancey Marcum are joined by junior Brandon Brown and will lead the charge up front for the Penguin defense.

Hard-hitting senior safety Mike Bracken is the lone returning starter for the Penguins' defensive backfield. Bracken will have his hands full leading this lot of first- and second-year players as the general for the secondary.

The season will kick off on Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Stadium when the Penguins take on Slippery Rock

Call Mark Stevens at
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Absolute Carlin

By Elizabeth Tabak | THE JAMBAR

The humor of George Carlin is not for the faint of heart.

It is not something for those who get easily queasy, dislike crude humor or cannot deal with foul language and certain risky words.

Carlin's humor is just that. It is that push the envelope, talk about the touchy subjects, use the crudest words and not give a damn kind of humor. It is a thinly veiled social commentary wrapped in foul language and his own crazy personal musings.

It's not half bad, actually.

However, in his highly anticipated show Thursday evening at Stambaugh Auditorium, he left even the biggest fans slightly stumped and a little disappointed.

Carlin was up to his usual antics of addressing "touchy" subjects avoided in everyday polite conversation. He even treated the audience with material that will be used to open and close his upcoming HBO special. However, that is where it stopped.

The material that Carlin used was recycled and over-the-top. It was the not give a damn humor that just went way too far, and left much to be desired. It is a well-known fact that comedians thrive on the touchy subjects, especially Carlin; this time he went way too far.

The slouching, grey-haired comedian played well to the house, but was fixated on somehow making such touchy issues as suicide and cancer funny. His rambling about the need for an all-suicide network worked as a commentary for the American public, but caused him to go too far in his attempts of making it humorous.

At times his added comments on the off-the-wall subjects he thinks of when he is by himself were comedic, but were fixated on his compulsion to see high death numbers in the shadow of a large tragedy or weather disaster. Again, he tried too hard and became too dark.

That's not to say that Carlin did not have his share of laughs.

The audience was well divided between those who were not afraid to get up and leave after being offended, and those who laughed at and appreciated most of the jokes.

He had his funny points. He dealt with racy issues and made a very bold, very hilarious, very truthful statement: "the world is full of nit-wits and a—holes."

He began the show well with a hilariously well-versed and rhyming description of the "modern man" and ended it with an appropriate mix of social commentary and an ode to his own love of a massive death toll and the end of the world.

In short, it was true Carlin style that went just a little too far. He meant every word of what he said and he doesn't give a damn.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at
(330) 941-1913

Love
him
or hate
him,
you'll
have to
take
him
or
leave
him.
Period.