



the jambar

youngstown state university



Valley responds to Bush visit
Supporters and protesters gathered to make their voices heard during the president's historic visit to campus.
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Always Coca-Cola?
Beverage contract up for bids after a decade with the Coca-Cola company. Page 2

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NEWS IN BRIEF

► "Battle of the Bands" slated for Fridays

A local recording studio is seeking area high school and college bands to participate in a "Battle of the Bands" this summer.

Kontinuous Jams Studios, located in Boardman, will be hosting the event on Friday nights at Camelot Lanes in Boardman. The winner's prize package includes a recording contract with Kontinuous Jams Studios.

For more information, contact Mike Moritz at (330) 788-9666 ext. 142.

► Photography Exhibition

"Radical Icons: Reiventing Feminism" is the title of a photography exhibition to be put on by local artist Sara Tkac June 5 at 7 p.m. at the Youngstown Mattress Company Arts Center in downtown Youngstown.

Two musical performances will supplement the exhibit of photography that focuses on the roles and struggles of women in Western society.

For more information, contact Sara Tkac at (330) 718-0036 or the YMCAC at (333) 734-7647.

► Youth camps to be held on YSU Campus

There are three one-day camps planned in June for students completing the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Kilkenny Center will be the site of the three camps. On June 25, the "Young Artist with Photoshop" camp will teach students to use Adobe Photoshop to manipulate photographs and design. The cost is \$38.

On June 28, students can take part in the "Young Artist in Watercolor" camp. This camp will teach students to use their creative abilities using watercolor paints. Lynne Rosati, noted watercolor artist, will guide the students. The cost is \$40.

The "Young Scientist" camp will be held June 29, offering students the opportunity to explore many aspects of geography and other sciences. The cost is \$40. The camps run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and registration began May 25. For more information, call (330) 941-3571 or visit www.kc.ycu.edu and click the link for "Extraordinary Youth Day Camp."

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Q. Do you prefer Coke or Pepsi?

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Bush visits campus



President George W. Bush rejoiced with panelist Joyce Phifer as she gave thanks to the "Good Lord," as well as the doctors and nurses at a local community health clinic who helped treat her heart condition. Phifer was one of two patients on the panel who discussed the benefits of community health centers.

Community health clinics dominated the agenda during the 40 minute long panel discussion

By Elizabeth Tabak
THE JAMBAR

President George W. Bush Tuesday told an invitation-only crowd of about 150 that community health clinics are at the heart of improving the American health system — a message that dominated his 40-minute

address at Youngstown State University. Bush, who offered no remarks about the economy and only brief references to the war in Iraq, discussed healthcare reform before local medical professionals, community leaders and a handful of university representatives.

Joining Bush in what he called a "dialogue" on the Bliss Hall Spotlight Theater stage were three health care experts and two patients, all offering endorsements of community health clinics. Bush sat in a wooden chair surrounded by doctors, nurses and other members of the

health community in front of a large banner that read "strengthening healthcare." Local political analysts said Bush, a Republican, was motivated to come to the historically Democratic Mahoning Valley in an effort to peel off some support.

YSU officials had about a week to prepare and Secret Service agents and other police helped secure the campus. As Bush spoke, protestors clustered along Wick Avenue across from Bliss Hall, some holding signs, including several supporting Democratic Party Presidential candidate John Kerry. see BUSH, page 2

University officials defend 'valuable' trips to Far East

Officials say trips to China hold many benefits for the university

By Michael J. Balala
THE JAMBAR

George McCloud and 10 other Youngstown State University employees are now in China — a trip that will cost the university \$29,000, but one that the Student Government Association President said may carry an even bigger price tag.

SGA President Angela Mavrikis questioned how the trips would benefit YSU students and said McCloud and the others should have thought twice about traveling at a time when the university is strapped for funds and raising tuition.

"It's going to look pretty crappy to students who have full-time jobs and pay for

their own tuition," Mavrikis said. "It may have been in their best interest in terms of a PR move to postpone or cancel the trip after the other issues were discovered."

Last month, a Jambar story revealed that McCloud, dean of Fine and Performing Arts and special assistant to the university president, traveled to California, Hawaii and China on the university's tab.

Youngstown State University Provost Tony Atwater acknowledged that some could question the trips. Atwater, however, defended them, saying that building relationships in China and the Far East is valuable for the university.

"This could be looked at as an expense

that is not in sync with the university's priorities," Atwater said. "We're breaking new ground here and right now we are not where we need to be internationally."

"We'll take our hits from the critics who say we shouldn't be spending money like this," Atwater said. "The essence of diversity is cultural literacy and global awareness and we'll continue to prepare our students to handle themselves in foreign cultures."

Noah Midamba, interim administrator for the Center for International Studies and Programs, said McCloud has been to China several times and has built many relationships in his travels. see CHINA, page 4

Analysts: Bush visit strategic

By Michael J. Balala
THE JAMBAR

President George W. Bush came to the Mahoning Valley in an effort to neutralize some of the support Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry already has in the area, local political analysts and others said.

Vice President for Administration John Habat was one of at least three university officials to attend Tuesday's 40-minute panel discussion with the president.

Habat said whether a person is a Democrat or a Republican, attending a speech given by the President of the United States is a great opportunity.

"Regardless of your political affiliation, this is the president of the country and it's not often you have the opportunity to hear him speak," Habat said.

Habat said YSU President David Sweet did not attend the invitation-only gathering in Bliss Hall because he is on vacation. Habat said he was representing the president's office.

One YSU faculty member questioned the wisdom of administrators attending see STRATEGY, page 2

Tailgating in trouble

Ohio Senate decision may prevent tailgaters from drinking this season

By Elizabeth Tabak
THE JAMBAR

There may not be drinking for Youngstown State University tailgaters this football season as Ohio House Bill 422 failed to pass the Ohio Senate Wednesday.

Ken Carano (D-Austintown) said he is still working with YSU and other state agencies in pursuing other methods of reinstating alcohol consumption in tailgate lots for the 2004 football season.

"We will just keep pursuing the issue in order get it started again," Carano said.

The tradition of drinking in tailgating lots prior to football games was halted for the last game of the 2003 season after Jambar reporters learned that the practice was not in line with state consumption laws. The bill, which would help create the F-7 permit needed to allow alcoholic beverages to be brought into tailgating lots, initially passed through the Ohio House May 5. However, it failed to pass through Ohio Senate during its final week of legislation as it faced opposition in letters from Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and Gary Q. Tester from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

In his letter, Taft addressed his concern over the risk of potential underage drinking and high-risk consumption. He also referenced concerns that some state universities have over the "possibility for disorderly conduct and liability."

"He just had some concerns," Carano said. Tester's letter did not call for the outright death of the bill; it asked for additional language to be added to the bill so that a possible compromise of ODADAS' efforts to reduce underage drinking would not occur.

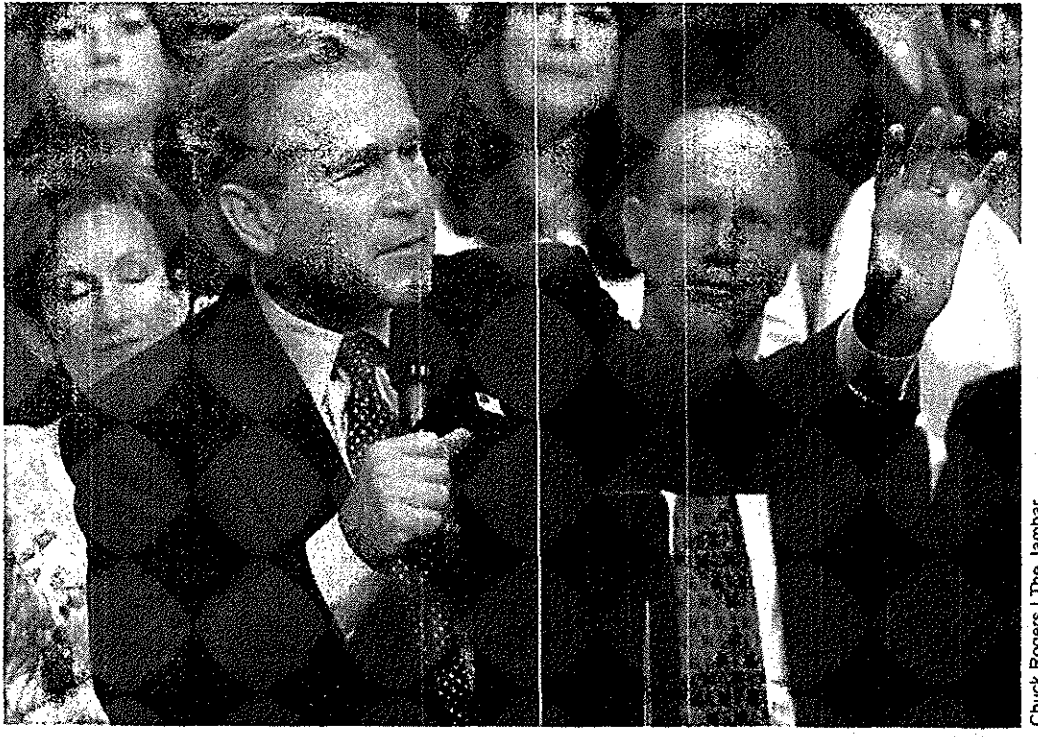
"We have seen the negative outcomes of the combination of high-risk drinking and tailgating at sporting events throughout the state of Ohio," Tester wrote.

Sara Hall Phillips, an aide for Carano, said the next possible chance for the bill to pass through the Senate is September, when the new legislative sessions are tentatively set.

"There are at least two more hearings until the Senate will vote to push it through," Hall Phillips said. "Whether or not they will is a whole different story."

Carano, however, remains confident it will pass. The state representative said he intends on working on arrangements with the state liquor department that would allow alcohol consumption in YSU tailgating lots. He also said he would continue working with the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

"I am going to try to alleviate the problem without having to worry about House Bill 422," Carano said. "We will continue to try and deal with this situation." see TAILGATE, page 4



Campus closes off for Bush visit

Local streets and highways surrounding Youngstown State blocked off for hours

By Michael J. Balala
THE JAMBAR

The usually candid chief of Youngstown State University's Police Department had little to say about the security measures taken prior to President George W. Bush's visit to campus.

YSU police Chief Jack Gocala is one of hundreds of law enforcement officials who helped secure the grounds on or near campus Tuesday.

Gocala was told about a week ago that Bush might be coming to campus, but he said the final decision was not made until late last week. Presidential handlers were considering other Youngstown-area locations.

When the final decision was made, Gocala said he and other officers had dozens of details to address. Two hours Air Force One took off from the Vienna Air Base with Bush and those who travel with him, Gocala reflected on the day.

"Overall, I think it went really well," Gocala said. "There were no problems and the area was secured all over campus."

Hours before Bush's 2 p.m. address began, Secret Service agents and dozens of uniformed police officers combed through campus.

Roads surrounding Bliss Hall, where Bush delivered his address, were closed and traffic was rerouted along Market Street and Interstate 680. Standing on the corner of Wick Avenue and University Plaza stood packs of Bush supporters mixed with several protestors who came with signs blasting Bush for the war in Iraq and other issues, but they were surrounded by police and kept away from the front entrance of Bliss.

At the request of the Secret Service, officials also scoured the inside of Bliss Hall, emptying students' lockers and searching for any dangers. One student whose locker was emptied said she found out her locker was emptied without any notification.

"I went to my locker and there was a sign on it that said all of my stuff could be picked up in the deans office," junior Kim D'Angelo said. "I'm sure it was see SECURITY, page 4

University to decide between Coke and Pepsi

By Elizabeth Tabak
THE JAMBAR

As the negotiation for pouring rights at Youngstown State University comes to a close, the soft drink of choice for the university could soon be changing.

Currently, Coca-Cola holds exclusive pouring rights at YSU, an investment that brought the university \$942,000 in the past ten years, purchasing agent Marianne Higgins said. The contract between YSU and Coca-Cola expires June 30, and university officials will soon make a decision on whether the current vendor will remain or Pepsi will take over.

Since April 26, Higgins, Director of Athletics Ron Strollo, Associate Director of Athletics Daniel O'Connell, Purchasing Director Rich DeLisio, and Executive Director of Student Services K.J. Satrum have been reviewing bids from both the local Pepsi and Coca-Cola vendors.

The decision, O'Connell said, should be made within the next week. It will then be forwarded to the administration for approval, something both representatives from the soft drink companies and students are anticipating.

The request for quotation from the soft drink vendors was sent out April 9. In the request, YSU outlined its requests for the contract. Among them were financial support for athletics, scholarships and students affairs, renovation for concession areas and "new signage and scoreboard systems."

Director of Purchasing for the University Rich DeLisio said both companies submitted bids to the committee that came in around \$1 million. DeLisio added that both companies were responsive to the proposed needs of the university.

Though the contract will not begin until July 1, O'Connell said one reason he is hoping a decision is reached soon is the needed improvement to the marquee surrounding campus and the football scoreboard.

"The technology is so different from 10 years ago, and we are now working with facilities maintenance to look at replacing

the marquee," O'Connell said. "You also have to figure that they are out there facing the wind and the rain."

O'Connell added that he has no complaints with the 10-year relationship the university has had with Coca-Cola.

"The current vendor has gone over and above what we expected," O'Connell said. "But I know with whichever company we choose there will be definite benefits."

Representatives from both companies said they are looking forward to bringing those benefits to YSU, and creating a positive community relationship.

Pepsi representative Danny Writtenberry expressed hope for a partnership with YSU, however, he said that he was limited in what he could discuss until the final contract decision was made.

"I would love to have a partnership with a downtown neighbor, but I kind of have to respect the wishes of YSU and not talk about it until it is announced," Writtenberry said.

Youngstown Sales Center manager for Coca-Cola John Flynt, who has been working with the University for four years, expressed hope for a continued partnership and highlighted some of the partnership's benefits.

"Just being here for four years I have seen that YSU brings so much back to the community in terms of higher education, athletics and the economy," Flynt said. "The continued relationship between us and YSU will continue to really pull things together in the community."

He added that there are possible events planned, such as a "Dasani Hydration Day" on campus and a possible "Dasani computer giveaway," if Coca-Cola maintains the contract.

Some YSU students are divided on

which brand they want to see in the vending machines, while others are uninterested.

Senior Lori Griffin said she hopes the university stays with the current vendor as she prefers Coke compared Pepsi.

"It is nice to be able to go find it anywhere on campus," Griffin said. "In my high school they had Pepsi vending machines, and for me that was very disturbing."

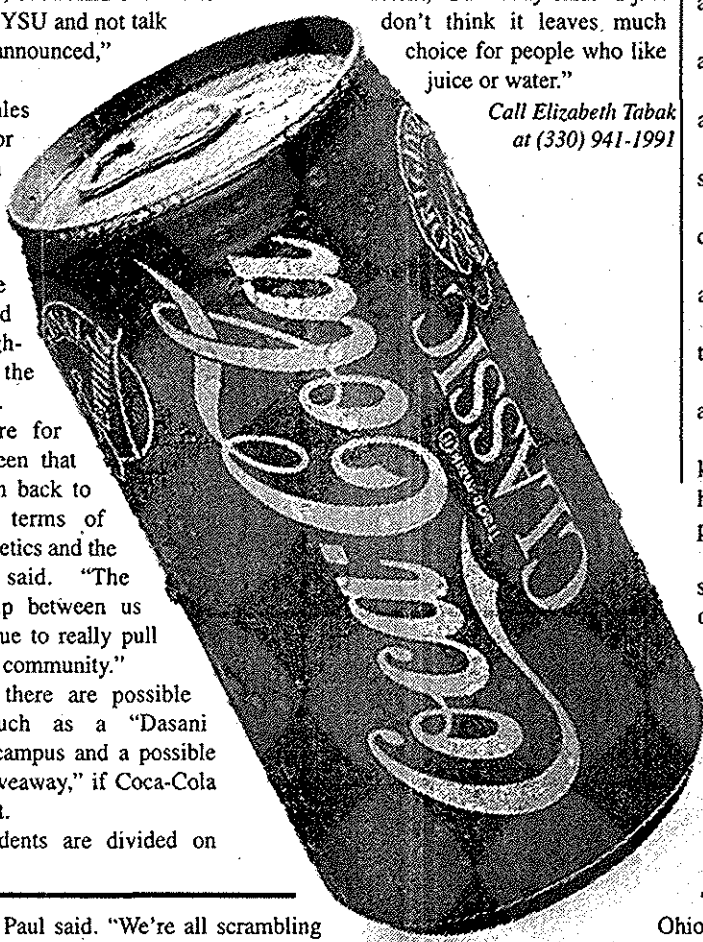
However, junior Nancy Burgos said she would like to see a change on campus.

"I just like Pepsi better," Burgos said. "Coke is way too sweet for me and it leaves an aftertaste. I'd just rather see Pepsi."

Still, others like junior Katherine Pavlidaky said the possible change of soft drinks does not affect her.

"I am not a big fan of sugary Coca-Cola, but I don't think Pepsi would be any different," Pavlidaky said. "I just don't think it leaves much choice for people who like juice or water."

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-1991



BUSH continued...

Bush's low-profile visit to YSU's campus came one day after he outlined his five-point plan for turning sovereignty over to the Iraqi people.

University President David Sweet did not attend Bush's address. Vice President for Administration John L. Habat said Sweet was on vacation. Several university trustees did attend.

During discussion with panelists, Bush changed his posture and expressions — sometimes chuckling at jokes and other times frowning at stories of hard times people shared.

One woman sitting next to Bush told him how she had four backaches in her heart that could have gone unnoticed but for the persistence of workers at the Youngstown Community Health Center on Wick Avenue.

The woman, Joyce Phifer, told Bush how God had also helped. "Had it not been for the good Lord and these doctors and nurses, I probably would not be sitting here," Phifer said as she waved her hand towards the sky.

As Phifer said "Hallelujah" and "praise God," Bush added, "That's right." The president then raised his hand and mirrored Phifer's religious wave.

Bush, with a microphone in his hand, glanced at notes in front of him as he guided the program into its three phases — discussion of his national healthcare vision, explanations of local community health centers and testimonials to their success.

Bush outlined the positive actions he said he has taken toward reforming healthcare, including creating senior discount cards for prescription medicine and health savings accounts.

Another positive development in healthcare, Bush said, is the expansion and construction of about 600 healthcare centers in the United States.

Illustrating his point about the healthcare centers, Bush spoke to Phifer and Cynthia Sacco, both patients at local community healthcare centers.

Sacco, a former cancer patient, discussed the personal care and attention she said she received from physicians in the community health center. "The centers don't only take care of a patient's physical needs, they take care of their emotional needs as well," Sacco said.

Bush said his hope is to make patient care more personalized and affordable.

"We need to make sure that the patient-doctor relationship is the center of the healthcare decision making process, not Washington D.C.," Bush said. "Community health centers are the safety net that make sure our citizens are getting the care they need," Bush said.

While Bush spoke, Secret Service agents and Youngstown Police officers kept watch over protestors who said they believed that Bush's focus on healthcare is not the most pressing need for the Mahoning Valley. The protestors were not permitted to cross Wick Avenue.

Bill Border, who stood outside of Kilcawley Center Tuesday afternoon, said he was not surprised that admission into the Bush event was by invitation only.

"He isn't going to have people there that don't like him. He's on the campaign trail," Border said.

Bush referred to the military and wealth as the strengths of the United States. He also praised the abilities of American doctors, nurses and volunteers.

"The true strengths of our country are the hearts and souls of our citizens," Bush said.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-1991

STRATEGY continued...

Bush's speech.

Associate Professor of Political Science Keith Lepak told a Jambar reporter that administrators who attended would be appearing to endorse the president in the November election.

"The leadership of this university should not give even the impression of an endorsement of a candidate," Lepak said. "They have no business to profit from going and it makes no sense to me."



Keith Lepak

Habat, however, fired back. "I think it's his opinion but out of respect of the Office of the President, I'm going," Habat said.

After Bush's speech, which focused on healthcare reforms, political analysts were quick to point out what they believed to be strengths and weaknesses of the 40-minute discussion.

Greg Paul, an aide for State Sen. Robert Hagan, said he found it odd that the president visited the Mahoning Valley and did not discuss jobs, war or many of the other problems facing Ohio.

"I guess it is kind of interesting because John Kerry comes here and talks about putting more jobs in the valley and the president comes and talks about

health care," Paul said. "We're all scrambling around here to find out why."

Mark Munroe, the Republican Chair of the Mahoning County Board of Elections, disagreed and said the president has several issues to deal with and healthcare is important. He said the larger problem with Mahoning County lies within the Democratic Party, which has dominated the valley for decades.

"You look back at Mahoning County and you see Democratic rule over the past 40 years and all they brought is corruption," Munroe said. "You have the mob, a prosecutor and city engineer in jail and it's all Democrats. That's why the Valley will not prosper."

Munroe said Ohio will play a large role in the outcome of the presidential elections and the president's visit to YSU was probably to increase his chances of winning the state's electoral votes in November.

He said Bush has done a remarkable job rebuilding the national economy that was already experiencing a recession when he took office. Munroe, however, said Mahoning County is still suffering.

"What is unbelievable is that the county continues to lag behind the rest of the country and the one constant is that a Democrat has been in office during these times," Munroe said.

Chair of Political Science William Binning said

Ohio will be a significant state if the November election is close and that Bush's strategy in visiting Youngstown may have been to gain the loyalty of Ohio voters.

"As you get closer to campaigning you spend time fishing where you know there's fish," Binning said. "He came to show he is aware of Youngstown and maybe to pick off a couple points before the elections."

Lepak agreed and said he believed Bush's plan was to come to an area that had strong loyalty to the Democratic Party to sway some voters.

"He's testing the waters in an area that has been hostile to him," Lepak said.

Lepak added that Bush's arrival did not create a large media event and said the president couldn't benefit much from the visit because it was only open to those formally invited and members of the press who gained clearance through the White House.

"Only those pre-approved by the White House were able to attend and that may be a downside to this," Lepak said. "The environment is very closed."

Munroe said it is imperative for Bush to

minimize Kerry's success in Ohio and coming to Youngstown on Tuesday may have helped cushion the blow of a county whose roots lie with liberals.

"If he can be successful in minimizing the strength Kerry is going to have in Ohio it would help," Munroe said. "If he can win Ohio he'll probably be the next president."

Several people who were not on the guest list said they were frustrated about the inability to gain access to the event.

For instance, Rich Nagel who works at the Mahoning County Board of Elections, said he had little information about the event.

Nagel said, "The phone's been ringing off the hook for this thing all day, but we're all completely in the dark. It seems that everyone locally is completely in the dark about it, to tell you the truth."

"There's going to be about 200 people invited to this thing, but I can't even seem to be able to get into this damn thing, for Christ's sake, and I'm on the Board of Elections."

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EDITORIAL OPINION

-an editorial-

Bush needed to focus on issues more relevant to the Valley

George W. Bush said plenty during his Tuesday visit to Youngstown State University. He talked about community healthcare and praised the Youngstown community and particularly Ohio North East Health Systems Inc. for their work with patients that have either no insurance or insufficient insurance.

The event was closed to the general public, allowing an invitation-only crowd to hear President Bush do what he has done best in recent times: avoid important issues and tap dance around issues people are truly concerned about.

Healthcare is an important issue. We all need healthcare, and we would feel a lot better if socialized healthcare was put into action. It would be a major step by a conservative White House. The people of Youngstown and communities like ours throughout the country would benefit greatly from such an idea.

But herein lies the catch-22 to Bush's visit and subsequent topics of discussion. In a community like Youngstown, specifically, the majority of uninsured people are so because of a struggling economic system. A Republican praising socialized healthcare to a community of unemployed, struggling to get by blue collar citizens is comparable to a dog telling a cat that flea shampoo works great after the dog gave the fleas to the cat.

George W. Bush is not from Youngstown. He has not the slightest clue what the people of this city have experienced over the past few decades. He has never lived the life of wondering whether or not his job and therefore his ability to provide basic necessities to his family is going to be shipped overseas.

He could not tell you the first thing about what it is like to be you and to fear the things you fear. And that is why he did not try to. That is why you were not invited. That is why those who were invited were not allowed to pose questions to him.

The president is a sly man. Citizens of this area were so impressed that he even chose to have his campaign stop here. True, he classified his event in the Valley as an official presidential visit and not a campaign stop, but he is not as stupid as political cartoons make him out to be. He knows that this area is so heavily Democratic that he stands barely a chance to gain the majority of the votes. But he also knows how starved we are for good publicity.

So he swings by. He stops in Youngstown and gives the Republicans here exactly what they want. But those people are in the minority.

Those people are not the laborers that make Youngstown what we are. The people that were satisfied just to have the president of the United States of America here in the Valley are not the heartbeat of the Valley. We were not satisfied just to have him show up.

Bush talked about saving America "one heart and soul at a time." But it is tough to save anything when you cannot save money because you do not have any. Money is not the only thing that makes the world go 'round, but in our community, our struggling economy is our world.

We are losing jobs by the boatload. We are in serious danger of losing our Air Force base.

Mark Munroe, the vice chairman of the Mahoning GOP was quoted in The Indicator as saying, "The most significant thing isn't what he had to say, but where he said it."

We will agree with Munroe that the most significant aspect of Bush's visit was not what he said, but it was not where he said what he said.

It was what he did not say. It was how he took advantage of a community starved for something positive — something to hang their hats on — and used taxpayers' money for an unofficial campaign stop in an attempt to steal some votes in an area that wants nothing more than to feel cared about.

If Bush gets re-elected in November, let's just hope we can still afford hats to hang. It is going to be a cold winter if we have four more years of George W. Bush's "leadership."

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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 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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trustee defends commencement

Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter in your May 20 edition regarding YSU Spring Commencement. The author indicates a preference for a short ceremony without names of individuals being called, master's degree hoods being bestowed or diplomas being distributed as graduates cross the stage. I'd like to share a brief history of the current practice. In 1993-94, I was serving as President of YSU Student Government when approached by a group of students led by another student leader, Kimberly Hight. These students advocated significant change to what was then considered a very impersonal ceremony that few graduates or families attended. Student government worked closely with the Academic Senate to revise graduation ceremonies to reflect the desire of students and to recognize the hard work of all individuals who play a role in the student's success — the hard work of the student and faculty members, and support of families and friends. The result was that names would now be called, master's degree candidates "hooded" and all would receive their diplomas and congratulations from their respective deans.

As a recently appointed YSU trustee, this was the first commencement where I had an opportunity to preside over the ceremonies with my board colleagues. I thought the mood in Beeghly Center on May 15 was one of excitement and celebration. The entire auditorium was full for one of the first times in recent memory. I smiled as I watched the festivities unfold. At one point, I leaned to a fellow board member and shared the same story I have described in this letter. For me personally, it was a gratifying experience to see the students cross the stage and be recognized. It was rewarding to know that something that students and faculty worked hard to develop was not only still in practice, but now a cherished tradition.

College graduation is a significant milestone for an individual, and those in attendance (both students and guests) should be respectful of the ceremony and each individual graduate. I agree that those in the audience should be attentive to speakers, the musicians and especially those acknowledging the names of the graduates as they cross the stage. If one must leave, they should do so without causing commotion. Further, if individuals wish to clap or cheer for a graduate, they should remember that the next individual on stage is someone else's son or daughter, grandchild or friend.

In contrast to the author of the previous letter, I do not consider it a "waste of time calling graduates up one by one." They have worked for and deserve that respect.

Congratulations to all of our spring graduates.

-Scott R. Schulick, YSU Board of Trustees

Bush's priorities are questionable

Editor:

In response to Susan Easter's letter in the May 20 issue of The Jambar, I personally applaud her informed and accurate opinion of G.W. Bush. Mr. Bush has abused his

position as president long enough for most of the working class Americans. His tax cuts have benefited no one but those that didn't need them. The more one makes (over \$100,000 a year) the bigger the break. As for me I got back less this year on my taxes. This was a result of working, being responsible enough not to have multiple children and making less than \$100,000 a year. Most of my friends told me the same. They got less this year than last year when it came to their income tax return. On average, half as much. For me I even have extra taken out of my check so that I don't get stuck having to PAY.

Mr. Bush's interests lie in preserving profits for his wealthy friends and his own investments. If George W. ever had to work for the purpose of food, shelter, and his Ivy League education he certainly wouldn't be so quick to cut the 30-40% in educational spending that he has over the past 3 years. He wouldn't be so quick to run into Iraq because the dictator didn't succumb to his ridiculous whims. The rest of the world said wait while Mr. Bush wanted to play war-monger.

If re-elected GW will ensure that we are in a conflict elsewhere in the Middle East. He has already threatened Syria and is on poor terms with Turkey. We need George W. for another term like we need more nuclear weapons.

As students see their tuition increase and funding decrease they can thank G. W. Bush and his war effort. The war has cost enough to give every registered adult American \$1.25 billion.

I have always been a believer in Republican ideology, yet have never seen a republican in office practice it. Pick your self up by bootstraps? Impossible if you can't buy the boots. Go to work and support yourself? Not if my job goes overseas. No child left behind? Not if they don't have adequate schools, instruction, and books. Support your leader and chief? Not if he is a self-centered, egocentric warmonger — a leader that will take from his people for his own personal gain and influence. I can't support that kind of individual.

-Bill Border, Coordinator

Heart Association CEO applauds state for policies

Editor:

On behalf of our Board of Directors and nearly 200,000 Ohio American Cancer Society volunteers, I would like to thank Gov. Taft and Ohio lawmakers for supporting full funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs with a proven track record.

The American Cancer Society supports funding for the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation because it is on the right track to reduce the smoking rates in Ohio and save lives. Survey results indicate that programs such as the stand campaign helped Ohio's teen smoking rate fall 45 percent in just a few years. Other programs are working to help expectant mothers, teens and others addicted to nicotine break the habit.

This money from the tobacco settlement is an investment in Ohio and in our future. It will help cut Medicaid costs. Right now, 17 percent of Medicaid's budget goes

to care for sick smokers. The tobacco settlement funds are helping save lives of Ohio's youth each day.

Thanks to the responsible actions of Ohio lawmakers, illness will be avoided, premature death will be averted and Ohio will be a healthier place to live.

-Don McClure, Chief Executive Officer
 American Cancer Society, Ohio Division

Burgess defends Bush's policies

Editor:

This is a response to Susan Easter's opinion in last week's The Jambar.

Come on Susan, YSU students can't waste their money on Bush-bashing books that tell lies. Gas prices are too high and driving to school is more important. I thought liberals were upset at all the trees being cut down for paper use, but it seems ironic that all these so-called environmentalists are more worried about seeing who can publish the most Bush-bashing books instead of conserving paper. All they are worried about is spreading hateful propaganda against President Bush.

France, Germany and Russia, and the whole world knew that Saddam Hussein had weapons, but they were worried about keeping their sweetheart oil for food deal with Saddam than disarming Saddam. If he had no weapons why wouldn't he show us he destroyed them? Why did the UN pass 17 resolutions giving this thug 17 second chances? How many of us would give a criminal 17 second chances or how about our court system giving a murderer 17 more times to murder some one else?

Yes Susan you have to include your beloved Bill Clinton in this argument because even he believed Saddam was a threat to America in 1998 when he ordered our troops to drop bombs on Iraq because he said he believed Saddam possessed biological, chemical and possibly nuclear weapons. Where were you same people who now question President Bush in 1998? Where was Kerry or other democratic leaders saying 'show us the proof' or why didn't they say 'give the UN weapon inspectors more time'? Even conservatives like myself supported this action by Clinton. But democrats are playing politics towards Bush because they are in a desperate position they don't control the White House or both houses of Congress.

Another thing: why is it so hard to believe or think of Quada and Saddam wouldn't work with each other they both have the same goal — death to America and death to Israel? A plea I make to democrats: get with the team; jump on the bandwagon for America's survival because your hate for Bush and republicans is pleasing Osama Bin Laden very much.

-David Burgess, Sophomore

Have an opinion?
 We want to hear from you...
 email us at:
 thejambar@hotmail.com

President's visit draws mixed response

By Daniel Griesemer
THE JAMBAR

One day after outlining a five-point plan to gradually cede sovereignty to the people of Iraq, President George W. Bush's visit to campus Tuesday to discuss healthcare issues drew responses as varied as the day's weather.

On the outside

Despite scattered showers and a string of guest list, supporters as well as protesters met at Bliss Hall for a symposium on "Strengthening Healthcare" and to voice opinions on various current issues.

While the president and his five-member panel discussed issues ranging from community health centers to medical liability system reform, demonstrators remained vocal behind the security perimeter on the opposite side of Wick Avenue. Some protesters were upset by the focus and exclusivity of the event.

"Why didn't he talk to the real people, the blue-collar people, about the important things like the war and jobs?" questioned Harold E. "Nick" Nichols, a protester representing the IUE/CWA. "He comes here to have a meeting with politicians and doctors about healthcare while we keep shipping off jobs."

Nichols complained that Bush did not address the Mahoning Valley's loss of jobs. "It's the people of Youngstown who are suffering," Nichols said.

Another group created a banner portraying 800 coffins draped in American flags. "Everyone saw the image on TV of 20 caskets draped in U.S. flags. We thought they should see what it would look like with 800 caskets," Adam Draa said.

The project, created by Assistant Professor of Biology Tom Diggins, was intended to remind observers of the conflict in Iraq. Draa said he believes healthcare is an important issue, but he and the others involved in creating the coffin banner said they do not want to lose sight of the plight of U.S. soldiers.

"We're here to make sure people are aware of the people that are dying over there, over in Iraq,"

Draa said.

Other protesters used the presidential visit to draw attention to specific causes they said need to be addressed in Washington.

John Beatty, a retired minister dressed in a rain smock and a gas mask, said, "I'm very concerned for peace, justice and the environment. Bush scores a 'zero' on all of them."

Valley residents also braved the rain to show their support for the president, waving signs that read, "We love you, Mr. President" and "Bush Cheney 2004." Campaigners handed out flyers and buttons while onlookers discussed and debated election-year issues.

On the inside

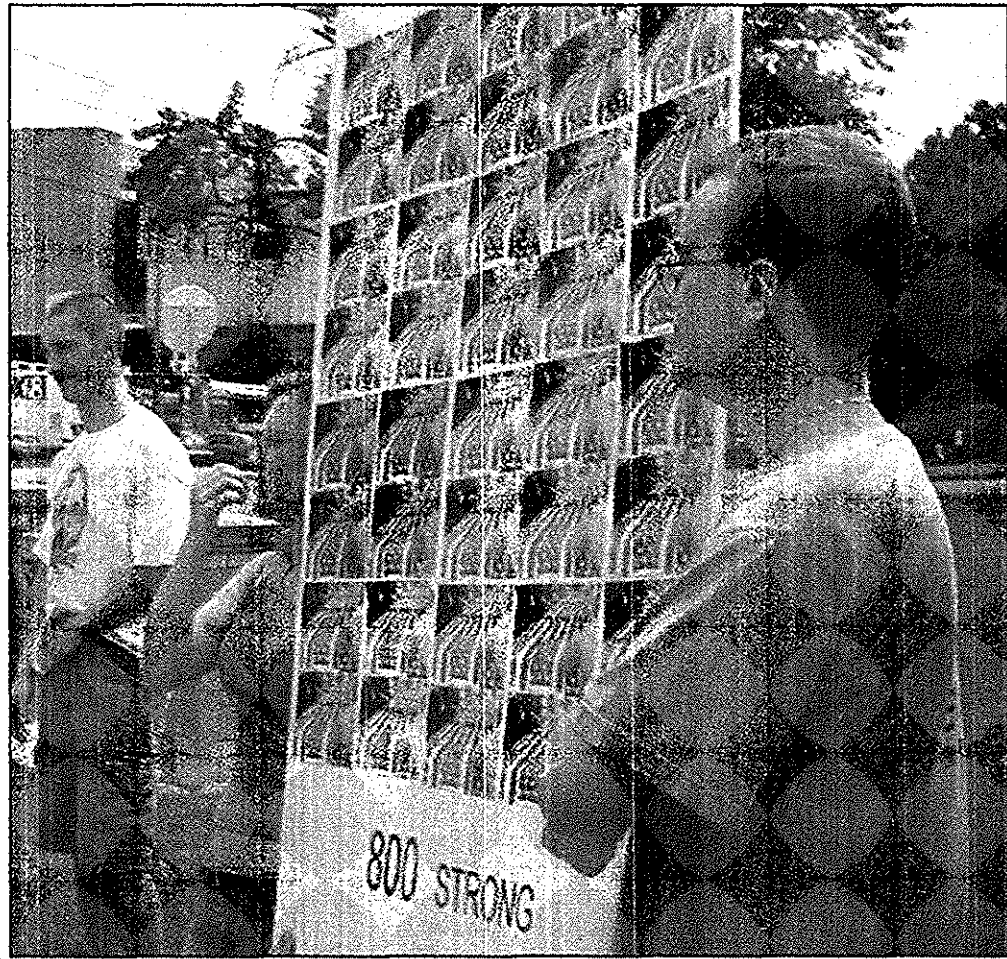
Reactions were also mixed among the approximately 150 attendees of the 40-minute forum. Though some were surprised at the minimal and subtle mentions of the conflict in Iraq, one panelist viewed Bush's focus on the topic of healthcare as a shining example of the president's ability to manage both foreign and domestic challenges.

"I think this is one thing he [President Bush] has up on his father," said Dr. Compton Girdharry, a physician at one of the Valley's three community health clinics. "He's been able to focus on our conflict abroad but hasn't forgotten about the challenges at home, such as healthcare."

Girdharry also applauded the president for recognizing the importance of community healthcare programs and rallying support for initiatives that promote the expansion of community health clinics.

Carol Esenwein, the Clinical Site director at the Good Samaritan Medical Clinic, agreed that the visit was a great success. "It was all very encouraging," Esenwein said. "I'm glad he's got all spectrums of community health included in it; there were the doctors, the nurses, the patients and the president."

University Provost Tony Atwater also praised the event. "This was a great thing for YSU and the community, and highlighted the great work of the Youngstown Community Health Center," said



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ Protesters hold a banner displaying 800 coffins draped in American flags. They said the banner was intended to remind attendees of the many U.S. soldier casualties in Iraq.

Atwater. "This also aligns itself well with the 'civic engagement education' we strive to provide at Youngstown State University."

Not all in attendance, however, were as impressed with the president and his message.

"Honestly, I was a little disappointed," said Charity Pappas, student representative to the YSU Board of Trustees. "I didn't think he was very informed, or that he was very informative... I wanted him to tell us things we didn't already know. I

wanted him to tell us what he's going to do on a broader scale."

Pappas said she was still glad to have attended. "It was an opportunity of a lifetime," said Pappas. "Especially for me, being in education, I'll get to tell my kids about when I shook hands with the president."

Call Daniel Griesemer
at (330) 941-1807

TAILGATE continued...

Vice President for Administration John Habat said he realizes now that the "likelihood of reaching a decision on the bill before the 2004 season is small," but he is looking forward to working on what he called "plan b" with Carano.

"We will just figure out another way, a plan that fits our

need the best," Habat said.

Habat added that Athletic Director Ron Strollo would also be working with Carano to restore drinking in YSU tailgate lots. Strollo was unavailable for comment because of Horizon League baseball tournament that YSU is hosting.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at
(330) 941-1991



Chuck Rogers | The Jambar

▲ President Bush greets panelist Elizabeth Duke following the conclusion of the discussion. Duke was one of five panelists who joined the president on stage to discuss healthcare issues.

SECURITY continued...

just a safety measure but I wish they would have told us before hand." D'Angelo said any students in Bliss hall that had locks on their lockers had their belongings removed from the lockers and placed in cardboard boxes in the Dean's office.

"I know that some other students were notified beforehand but I wasn't," D'Angelo said. "I'm not being ignorant but I would have really appreciated a phone call saying they were going to take my belongings."

Gocala said the U.S. Secret Service had local officials "planning security strategies" just days before the event and if students' items were removed, it was just a precautionary measure.

"We were asked to do a site overview and plan security strategies accordingly," Gocala said.

Gocala said several police departments were put on watch and security was tight at all locations on or near campus.

"We had 24 officers just from campus," Gocala said. "There were secret service agents on rooftops and dump trucks barricading the front doors of Bliss Hall."

Captain Marty Kane of the Youngstown Police Department also said little about the heightened security prior to Bush's visit to the valley but said his officers were working with other law enforcement officials to ensure the president arrived and departed safely.

Kane said, "We switched some officers' assignments to provide extra security until the president leaves campus."

Before Bush's speech, Vice President for Administration John Habat said that security would be as tight as it has ever been on campus.

"I do know that every locker in Bliss Hall that was opened was asked to be cleared out by the Secret Service," Habat said.

Gocala said he was not told about the lockers but was aware that classes in Bliss Hall were cancelled.

"The building was closed and arrangements were made for all classes in Bliss Hall to be taught elsewhere," Gocala said.

Habat said he has been involved in presidential visits in the past and said the Secret Service releases little information about the arrival and departure of the president.

He said he learned about the visit just five days before Air Force One would land in Vienna. Gocala, however, said having the president on campus is a great opportunity for YSU.

"I first heard of the visit last Thursday when it was just a possibility," Habat said. "They keep you in the dark as long as possible. They come in, and in the blink of an eye, they're out."

Because of their familiarity with the area, Gocala's team was responsible for securing various segments of campus.

Gocala said he was also prepared for the protesters but later said that nobody reported any problems to the YSUPD or the Youngstown Police Department.

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

CHINA continued...

Midamba said YSU is the first state institution in Ohio to sign an agreement with the Taiwanese National Chamber of Commerce.

He said traveling to China would help get Youngstown on the international map and eventually open the door for job opportunities overseas.

"They'll help get us connected with the business environment there and help recruit for us," Midamba said. "They're going to represent YSU to 1.3 million businesses in China and will expose our education."

Midamba said although traveling to China is expensive, the return investment for the university is endless.

"I know \$30,000 looks like a lot of money but when you look at the value added then the price tag will be zero and that's the way you need to look at it," Midamba said.

McCloud's contingent consists of Philip Gineti, dean of the Beeghly College of Education; five faculty members from the Dana School of Music and two art department faculty members.

University Spokesman Ron Cole said he was told that Gineti traveled to China to increase the enrollment of the education department.

"From what I've been told he was to study the education in China to build relationships and bring students back to enroll in the graduate school," Cole said.

McCloud's delegation left May 15 and will return Sunday.

Two other YSU employees are also in China now on different trips: Hunter Morrison, director of the Center for Urban & Regional Studies and Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Sylvia Imler.

Morrison's trip is estimated to cost the university \$2,028 and Imler's is projected to be \$2,250.

Members of McCloud's contingent each filed separate travel requests, with the university paying what is estimated to be a

total of \$26,020 for the nine people.

Cole said the faculty from the Dana School of Music would be performing and teaching master's level classes while McCloud is working on an agreement with a Chinese art school and YSU to exchange students.

"There is an ongoing process of building the overall relationship with the Nanjing Art Institute and there is an agreement to exchange students with that school," Cole said.

Morrison said he wanted to travel to China to attend a three-week field seminar about Hong Kong and Shanghai.

In an April 20 letter to Assistant Provost Ron Chordas, Morrison outlined reasons why he said he needed to attend.

"As we develop and implement our Centennial Master Plan, it will be critical that we understand the needs and expectations of international students. This field seminar will give me invaluable insight into these issues and will help to make the YSU campus more attractive to and accepting of foreign students," Morrison wrote in the letter.

Morrison said the seminar he will be attending addresses the issues of urban and regional development by focusing on the two Chinese communities of Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Morrison billed the university \$1,200 for his trip to China. He used his own funds to pay the \$600 admission fee for a seminar he said he would attend at the East-West Center.

Cole said Imler traveled to the Chinese province of Gui Zhou to give presentations at two universities.

Atwater said the overall strategy of the travel is to increase awareness of faculty and that Morrison will be gaining insight that will benefit the future of YSU and the city of Youngstown.

"We didn't just wake up and decide to send 11 people to China," Atwater said. "This is an exchange opportunity that is tied directly to the Centennial Plan."

Mavrikis said she can understand the need to broaden YSU's international relationships,

but she said she believes it might be a good idea to investigate why so many YSU employees needed to travel.

"It's worth looking into seeing why these people are going on the trip because if they are going for a vacation, then that's wrong," she said. "I believe he (McCloud) is going for a good cause."

Mavrikis said she understands the need to travel to help increase enrollment on campus, but she said many students will see the China and Hawaii trips as useless.

"It seems similar to when tuition went up and Sweet got a raise," she said. "It may be a product of bad timing."

McCloud did not return telephone calls from a Jambar reporter before he left. Morrison and the others could not be reached for comment.

In past interviews, McCloud has said the trips are important. "My job is interesting and a lot of fun, but I'm not playing around with university funds," McCloud had said. "What appears to be an isolated travel is part of a strategy. We are internationalizing the curriculum."

McCloud has said he is working on building relationships with Chinese counterparts in the hope of increasing enrollment at YSU.

Midamba said there are approximately 150 international students attending YSU, including seven from China and he hopes that number will grow to 400 in three years.

University Vice President for Administration John Habat said university employees travel on a regular basis and even though state funding has been cut, YSU employees still need to travel if it is benefiting the university.

"It's expected that people are going to travel because it's part of their contract," Habat said. "Just because you have hard times doesn't mean you shut everything down."

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



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ Supporters of the president rallied along the sides of Wick Avenue carrying banners and waving signs. Security was tight during President Bush's visit, and all protesters were required to stay on the opposite side of Wick. About 100 demonstrators gathered for Tuesday's event.