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youngstown state university

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Thursday

JULY 1, 2004

Weather > Mostly Sunny



High 84° Low 61°

in the red

NEWS IN BRIEF

### Beisel named director of YSU Metro College

William H. Beisel, former dean of workforce development and continuing education at the University of Akron, has been named executive director of the Youngstown State University Metro College.

Beisel, who holds postgraduate degrees in adult and continuing higher education from Penn State University, has also worked as Penn State University's director of continuing and distance education at the Pennsylvania College of Technology and the Penn State Williamsport Center.

Gordon Mapley, who served as interim executive director of the Metro College, is currently director of operations and senior research associate for the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies.

### Smoky Hollow 5K run to be held July 10

The first Smoky Hollow 5K Run and Family Fun Walk will be held Saturday, July 10.

The event will begin at 9 a.m., and will be located at Harrison Field on Walnut Street behind Bliss Hall. It is being held in conjunction with the Youngstown State University Summer Festival for the Arts.

Awards will be given to top runners in different categories. All one-mile walk finishers will also receive ribbons.

Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. and the cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The first 300 to register will receive a complimentary t-shirt.

### Walker selected as YSU Student Trustee

Sophomore Paul L. Walker has been named as student trustee to the YSU Board of Trustees.

The finance major will replace former student trustee Matthew Pastier. Walker's term will end May 1, 2006. He is a member of the Student Government Association, YSU Honors Council and Students in Free Enterprise. He is also an honors student and works as a tutor in the YSU Center for Student Progress.

the jambar poll question

Do you agree with the findings of the Neil investigation?

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## Committee: Neil guilty

Professor's fate now rests in the hands of Human Ecology Chair Jean Hassell

MICHAEL J. BALALE | The Jambar

The woman who signed off on the hiring of a human ecology professor who earned his postgraduate degrees from an unaccredited institution will now help decide if he should keep his associate professor's position at Youngstown State University.

The full committee that has been looking into the academic and professional background of William Bruce Neil has determined that the 33-year-old professor "misrepresented" his credentials when he was hired in September 2003 as a full-time faculty member in the Human Ecology department.

The recommendation from the full committee was released Friday after a three-month investigation.

Questions about Neil first surfaced publicly in a Jambar investigation published in March. The professional conduct committee formed shortly after to evaluate his credentials.

The recommendation from the professional conduct committee, along with thick transcripts from interviews conducted by committee members, have been sent to Jean Hassell, chair of the human ecology department.

Hassell has been asked to advise Bitonte College of Health and Human Services Dean John Yemima if Neil should continue as a YSU faculty member.

Neil, who earned \$60,000 for his teaching during the academic year, is being paid an additional \$20,250 for teaching summer classes.

Hassell told a Jambar reporter on Wednesday that she would not talk about the case, nor how long it would take for a decision to be made.

"I don't even want to hear the questions," Hassell said. "This is in process and we are going through the policy."

Neil was contacted but did not return repeated phone calls.

In past interviews and in comments to committee members, Neil has said he did not intentionally misrepresent his academic credentials.

Neil's hiring has touched off an examination of how YSU hires employees and already has prompted reforms in the way of potential applicants are screened.

The Neil investigation also offers a glimpse into internal politics at YSU and raises questions about who is supposed to do what concerning hiring.

During the investigation, the committee interviewed Neil, Director of Human Resources Hugh Chatman, professor of human ecology Jan Eljas and others involved in Neil's hiring.

The 185-page booklet of documents shows what went on behind the closed doors of a Bliss Hall conference room.

The committee focused on several issues and questions:

### Did Neil misrepresent his credentials?

Neil testified to the subcommittee that at Hiwassee College, where he previously taught, he spoke to the

dean of academic affairs there about La Salle trying to be "re-accredited."

When asked by the subcommittee why he did not mention this to anyone at YSU, Neil said he wasn't thinking about it at the time.

"I, I really, it was not, it was not - I wasn't even thinking about it, honest to gosh. I was not trying to be deceptive or anything of that nature. It was not, not even part of my thought process at the time."

Neil had listed La Salle University as the institution where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees but members of the search committee all agreed that he never mentioned their accreditation status.

While teaching at Luzerne County Community College, Neil's credentials were revised in the college directory after administrators from LCCC learned that La Salle was never accredited.

Neil's master's and doctorate degrees were removed from the catalog and were no longer recognized by the university.

Chair of the subcommittee Rick Walker asked Neil why the resume he submitted to YSU says he has master's and doctoral degrees after knowing that La Salle was not legally accredited and they were not recognized by Luzerne.

Neil contested he did in fact have the degrees but that Luzerne removed mention of them from the school's catalog.

"I feel I have a Ph.D. Okay? I have the degree. I have, I have the credentials for it. Okay? I have the degree," Neil said.

Neil told the subcommittee that he did not tell members of the YSU search committee about having his credentials removed from the Luzerne catalog because he received notification that they were in the process of gaining back accreditation.

"I received materials from La Salle saying that they were going through the process of being re-accredited, and so I just, you know, kept going with it," Neil said.

Neil, William Bruce



**The Neil Investigation**  
After a three-month investigation, the Professional Conduct Committee has concluded that William Bruce Neil misrepresented his credentials when he was hired in September 2003 as an associate professor in the Human Ecology Department

**What's Next?:**  
-Human Ecology Chair Jean Hassell has been asked to recommend whether Neil should continue teaching at YSU.

**Background:**  
-Neil earned his master's and doctoral degrees from LaSalle University in Louisiana. LaSalle was closed down by the FBI and is not recognized by sanctioned accrediting institutions.  
-Neil earns \$60,000 per year to teach courses during the fall and spring semesters, and an additional \$20,250 to teach summer courses.

Nancy Mosca, one of the five members of the subcommittee, questioned Neil about La Salle's accreditation and about Neil receiving restitution for the case. Mosca also asked why he did not view the degree as being invalid.

"Because I, I felt that I had earned the degree by doing the work that was required, and had met the stringent requirements for it; and so therefore it was mine, and I was not going to - did not want to return it," Neil said.

**What was the search committee's knowledge of LaSalle?**  
Eljas, who chaired the search committee that recommended the hiring of Neil, told the subcommittee that she thought Neil was from La Salle University in Pennsylvania and if she would have known his alma

see NEIL, page 2

## Sweet audit shows 'no improprieties'

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambar

An outside auditing firm reviewing Youngstown State University President David Sweet's travel and entertainment expenses said they have found "no improprieties."

Phil Dennison and Nicole Ferraro of the Packer Thomas firm updated members of the Board of Trustees of the audit sub-committee Monday afternoon.

The final report, which was expected Monday, is now expected to be finished by mid to late July.

Dennison said the firm was commissioned by the audit sub-committee to "verify that expenses are allowable" under university and state regulations and to determine that Sweet was properly reimbursed under those same regulations.

Sweet requested his expenses be reviewed after articles in The Jambar raised questions about his travel and entertainment spending over an 18 month period.

Though the representatives said they have not found any illegal use of funds by Sweet, they stated that they have run into ambiguities in university guidelines for travel and entertainment.

Ferraro said the inconsistencies lie in the university-wide guidelines set for travel and entertainment expenses and those outlined in the president's contract. She added that there are also questions as to who should make final approval on the president's expenses.

"Good internal controls required a designated signature authority," Ferraro said.

The final report will include Packer Thomas's findings and suggestions to correct the ambiguities and create better internal controls.

After the findings were presented, Board of Trustees chairman Larry Esterly commended both Sweet and Packer Thomas. He also reassured other board members that despite the report being "a work in process," there has not been any finding of "impropriety or misuse of funds."

Sweet, who has maintained that his spending is "not excessive" and necessary for continued fundraising at YSU, said he was pleased with the findings thus far.

"I am comfortable with the suggestions that have been made," Sweet said.

Sweet added that a separate committee is also in the process of reviewing travel policy and expenses. The findings and suggestions of that investigation should be presented at the September meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

## Three Ohio colleges grant staff domestic partner benefits

CARRIE SPENCER | Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The manager of chemistry labs at Miami University was suspicious when she read the e-mail that after 13 years of being turned down, she and other employees would be able to add their same-sex partners to their health insurance and other benefits starting Thursday. Now Amanda Whinery is a believer.

Miami and Ohio universities are the first of the state's public four-year schools to offer health and dental coverage, free tuition and other paid benefits to employees' partners. Cleveland State University said it will soon follow.

The forms weren't ready yet at Miami on Monday, so Whinery says she will return to the personnel office Thursday to sign up her partner of 15 years, who has been uninsured for the past year.

"It makes such a big impact on our household, financially and security wise," Whinery said. "It's equal pay for equal work."

Robert Glidden, who retires Wednesday as president of Ohio University in Athens, announced the change at his final board of trustees meeting. "We are doing this as a matter of fundamental economic fairness," he said.

The benefits will help recruit and keep employees, said James Garland, president of Oxford-based Miami.

"The university is not weighing in on the issue of gay marriage and gay rights," he said. "It's primarily a business decision."

Trustees at both schools passed resolutions supporting the benefits even though no action was required.

Cleveland State has clauses in three of its four union contracts requiring it to offer paid benefits to same-sex domestic partners if any of the state's other public universities do so. The benefits will be offered university-wide, said Joseph Nolan, vice president of administration. Nolan plans to meet with the unions in about 10 days to negotiate details such as when the plan takes effect and how the benefits will be taxed.

see BENEFITS, page 2



David Sweet

# in the red

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ► "YSU Preview" to take place in July

"YSU Preview," a program created to introduce the Youngstown State University campus to high school juniors and seniors in the midst of their college search, will be held Saturday, July 10 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The agenda includes breakfast in Kilcawley Center, presentations on YSU's academic programs, interaction with current YSU students, a campus tour and a visit to the Cafaro House residence hall.

Following the event, students and their families can visit the Summer Festival of the Arts on campus. Forte on the Fifty, which features The Commodores and a fireworks display, will conclude the day's events a 7:30 p.m. in Stambaugh Stadium.

For more information or to make reservations, call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (330) 941-2000 or 877-GO-YO-YSU.

Reservations can also be made at [www.ysu.edu](http://www.ysu.edu).

### ► YSU-ACE awards worker scholarships

The Youngstown State University-Association of Classified Employees (YSU-ACE) has awarded two current YSU students the Student Employee Scholarship.

The \$250 scholarship was presented to Julie Moser and Jennifer Fisher and is awarded based on financial need and academic standing.

Applicants were required to submit a written essay and recommendations from two current YSU-ACE members, and must also be full-time students currently employed by YSU in a student employee capacity.

### ► YSU alumnus named assist. softball coach

Former Penguin softball player Zetta Dumkrieger was named assistant coach by head coach Christy Cameron last Tuesday.

Dumkrieger was a two-year letter winner at YSU, and was a member of the squad that produced a school-best record of 36-17-1 for the 2003 season. In her two years with the team Dumkrieger started 46 consecutive games in her right field position.

Dumkrieger graduated from YSU in 2003 with a degree in journalism.

### ► Leeper guest artist and speaker at Expo

Local artist Christopher Leeper will be featured as the guest artist and speaker for the opening reception of the Tri-County Youth Expo. The reception is scheduled for Saturday, July 10 at noon in Bliss Hall's Gallery.

The Expo will be held during the Summer Festival of the Arts, and features over 60 pieces of sculpture and two-dimensional artwork from K-12 students. The art will be professionally exhibited in the Bliss Hall Gallery July 10-28.

Leeper is a member of the adjunct faculty in the Department of Art at Youngstown State University, serves as an instructor at the Butler Institute of Art and is vice-president of the Ohio Watercolor Society.

Leeper will be speaking on his quest to become a full-time artist during the opening ceremonies.

The reception and event are free. For more information, call (330) 941-2307 or visit [www.ysu.edu/sfa](http://www.ysu.edu/sfa).

**Got a tip?**

Call the News Editor at 330-941-1989

## NEIL

FROM PAGE 1

mater was unaccredited, she would not have recommended him.

"I would not have voted for him if I had known how he had obtained his degrees," Elias told the members. "They are not acceptable."

Elias added that inaccurately representing employment would be illegal and wrong, whether the university has a policy on where the degrees are from or not.

Elias said she was not present when Neil interviewed and added that she could not confirm if Neil deliberately wanted the search committee to believe he attended the La Salle University in Pennsylvania.

Hassell also told the subcommittee that when she saw LaSalle on Neil's credentials, she had no idea that it was a university in Louisiana.

"... The name LaSalle was believed to represent that of the well-known La Salle University in Philadelphia," Hassell said.

Hassell later told the group that there were checks made, including one on a candidate from Pacific Coast, who Hassell said the search committee did not interview, because they were from an unaccredited university.

**Did human resources or the search committee investigate Neil's credentials before he was hired for the position?**

Chatman testified that for approximately 10 years, the search committees have checked the credentials of possible hires.

Chatman said if his department checked Neil's credentials before hiring Neil, they would have seen that he attended LaSalle in Louisiana, not La Salle in Pennsylvania.

Chatman added that if the discovery would have been made prior to Neil's hire, he would have never been offered the position.

"Had we seen it not fallen under that, then we could have gone back and said, 'wait a minute, this no longer meets the criteria in order to offer the

job.' That did not happen," Chatman said.

Chatman told the committee he believed Neil provided all the documents and material YSU requested and said he believes Neil did not misrepresent himself during the hiring process.

Chatman said LaSalle was accredited.

*My only involvement in the hiring was to attend the department meeting when the faculty voted to offer him the position. I assumed that the degree was from La Salle University in Pennsylvania. I would not have voted for him if I had known how he had obtained his degrees. They are not acceptable.*

*As I stated at the outset, if there are inaccuracies in his resume in other areas, employment or what-*

ited when Neil attended and only lost its accreditation when the FBI arrested the president of the university.

"So - but at the time, again, through that World Christian Accreditation, I think it was, it was an accredited degree," Chatman said.

LaSalle's accreditation was created by the school and is not one of the six national accrediting agencies recognized by Youngstown State University.

Before concluding, Chatman said human resources was in the process of changing the language and understand-

*persons have indicated, I'm a pretty good educator, and I'm more than willing to - shoot, what the heck, let's start all over with the master's, and we will do the master's and do the Ph.D. again. It seems like the solution.*

*Is that the solution you're looking for?*

**MR. SWEENEY:** No. I was curious as to your take on it.

**MR. NEIL:** That's what I, that's my take on it. I don't mean to - I don't have those credentials, so I would have to, have to earn them in a period of time, if

ing of the search committee checks and his department's role in the hiring process.

**What is the relationship between the Neil situation and another controversy involving Human Ecology Professor Robert Campbell?**

Campbell was put on paid administrative leave after a student accused him of sexually harassing her. Neil offered investigators looking into the Campbell situation a statement corroborating the student's allegations.

Elias told the subcommittee that she first gained knowledge of Neil's background during a conversation with Campbell. Elias said that Campbell told

her the accusations against him were false and he knew why he was accused.

According to her testimony, Campbell told her that he discovered information about a university employee that was very serious, and could ultimately lead to the firing of a professor. "... He had found out something that was a - that was a bombshell, and it would lead to someone's termination," Elias said.

Although Campbell will not comment specifically about the circumstances, he did release a written statement to the chairman of the professional conduct committee Joe Edwards that reads:

"The charges before your committee were apparently brought by Mr. Chatman on behalf of the University. I did not initiate nor testify in the present case. I was unaware that charges were brought by Mr. Chatman until I read it in the media. The current charges, other than providing information about the individual's character, do not affect me at all.

"The two charges that I am filing are very different and very unrelated to his alleged degrees and work experience. Regardless of the outcome of the present investigation, the fact is Mr. William Bruce Neil provided, over one year after misrepresenting his degrees, false information about me in two separate instances. Even if your committee does the right thing in the current accusations in the William Bruce Neil/Hugh Chatman situation, I have compelling evidence that my reputation was harmed by false testimony in two instances."

**Neil's compromise**  
Just as his testimony was winding down, Neil said that after the discussion with the subcommittee, he realizes LaSalle's accrediting problems.

"Oh, I will agree that La Salle did not get accredited, that's correct," Neil said. "They did not get accredited, and I do not have an accredited degree."

"Like I said, I do have a bachelor's degree. And as two persons have indicated, I'm a pretty good educator, and I'm more than willing to - shoot, what the heck? Let's start all over with the master's and we will do the master's and do the Ph.D. again. It seems like the solution. Is that the solution you're looking for?" Neil said.

MICHAEL J. BALALE | 330-941-1989

## BENEFITS

FROM PAGE 1

Other four-year universities and Ohio's two public medical schools with partial or no benefits for domestic partners said they have no immediate plans to change, but many are watching the policies of other schools. The issue frequently comes up in contract negotiations at schools with union-represented employees.

Kent State University has had meetings recently on the topic. A faculty-staff committee at Bowling Green State University plans to have a report by fall about whether the benefits should be offered.

"This is an issue of competition with other universities and even private businesses," Kent State spokesman Ron Kirksey said. "It looks like everybody is looking at this now."

The Youngstown State University faculty contract expires next summer, the first of four pacts to come up for negotiation, spokesman Ron Cole said. "Certainly the decisions from the other universities are going to play a role in that."

The state's nearly two-month-old ban on same-sex marriage does not affect universities' pension benefits such as insurance, said Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who wrote the law that took effect May 7. It applies to specific privileges granted by law to married people, he said, such as refusing to testify against a spouse in court, transferring pension benefits to a surviving spouse or filing a joint tax return.

"What I think about their decision is not important, because the bill does not preclude them from making that decision," Seitz said Monday. Gov. Bob Taft and the Ohio Board of Regents said the business decisions are up to individual employers.

The law ended years of legal uncertainty about whether public universities could offer the benefits, Garland said.

The new university benefits aren't identical to those of married employees because the value must be taxed as income under federal law. Administrators expect fewer than 20 employees to sign up at each school, adding \$50,000 to \$100,000 yearly to insurance benefits that cost about \$20 million at Miami and about \$30 million at Ohio.

Whinery, 48, gave birth to John two years ago, and her partner, Kristen Jacobson, quit her job to care for him in their Oxford home. John is covered on Whinery's policy, but the couple couldn't afford more than one year of private insurance for Jacobson. For the past year, vacations and outings have been planned around avoiding risks and exposure to germs.

"We knew we couldn't afford an emergency room visit for her," Whinery said.

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# EDITORIAL OPINION

-an editorial-

## Board asking the wrong question

The media came with notebooks open and cameras ready to Monday's meeting of the Board of Trustees' audit sub-committee.

They came to hear the results of an external audit conducted by the Packer Thomas firm into expenditures made by David Sweet, the president of Youngstown State University.

Not surprisingly, the firm reported "no improprieties" in the president's spending.

Though the final report is not due until mid-July, Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Esterly, as well as other members of the sub-committee, made it a point to articulate time and time again that there was no evidence of illegal spending by Sweet.

The media responded with headlines and reports that painted the picture of an exonerated Sweet — the victim of unfounded allegations by a student newspaper.

Once again, Sweet has proven masterful at an art that has served him well: answering a question that is similar, yet fundamentally different, from the one posed to him.

It is easy to play the martyr. By voluntarily subjecting himself to an external audit, the president was able to maneuver his way around the core issue presented in The Jambar's April report.

Not once did The Jambar question the legality of Sweet's expenditures. With university policies on travel and entertainment broad enough to drive a truck through, most any expenditure can be massaged to qualify under YSU's guidelines.

What was in question then, and what we continue to question now, is the appropriateness of certain purchases made by Sweet with university funds.

Granted, the president has been successful in fundraising, bringing in over \$15 million towards the development and construction of a recreation center, student scholarships and academic programs. If all of the expenses in question were directly tied to fundraising, then this would be a valid argument.

We fail to see how purchases such as a \$130 lobster and steak dinner with Pat Sweet, the president's wife, and a \$415 limo ride to Columbus were necessary to the university when a less expensive dinner and a cab fare would have sufficed.

Our question is one of legitimacy, not of legality. We understand that it was not the role of Packer Thomas to assess the appropriateness of Sweet's expenditures.

This does not negate, however, the importance of this question being asked.

But we cannot help but wonder who will ask Sweet what is appropriate and necessary and what is perhaps simply extraneous. A system of checks and balances needs to come into play here. Who is going to do the checking?

Certainly one of his vice-presidents might feel as though that extends beyond their scope. Certainly someone who answers to Sweet may not feel as though it is their role to demand answers for his or her self.

That said, the Board of Trustees answers not to David Sweet, rather it is they who hold the upper hand. The Board of Trustees needs to step away from the black and white letter of the law investigation and be more willing to consider the elements as they apply to necessity and need as opposed to a person's technical right.

If they will not do it, we will. We will continue to ask those questions that President Sweet dodges and dismisses time and again until we get an answer that is satisfactory for the students of this campus.

President Sweet may not answer directly to the students, but he should feel it is his responsibility to make sure that they are satisfied with his actions and his defenses of those actions.

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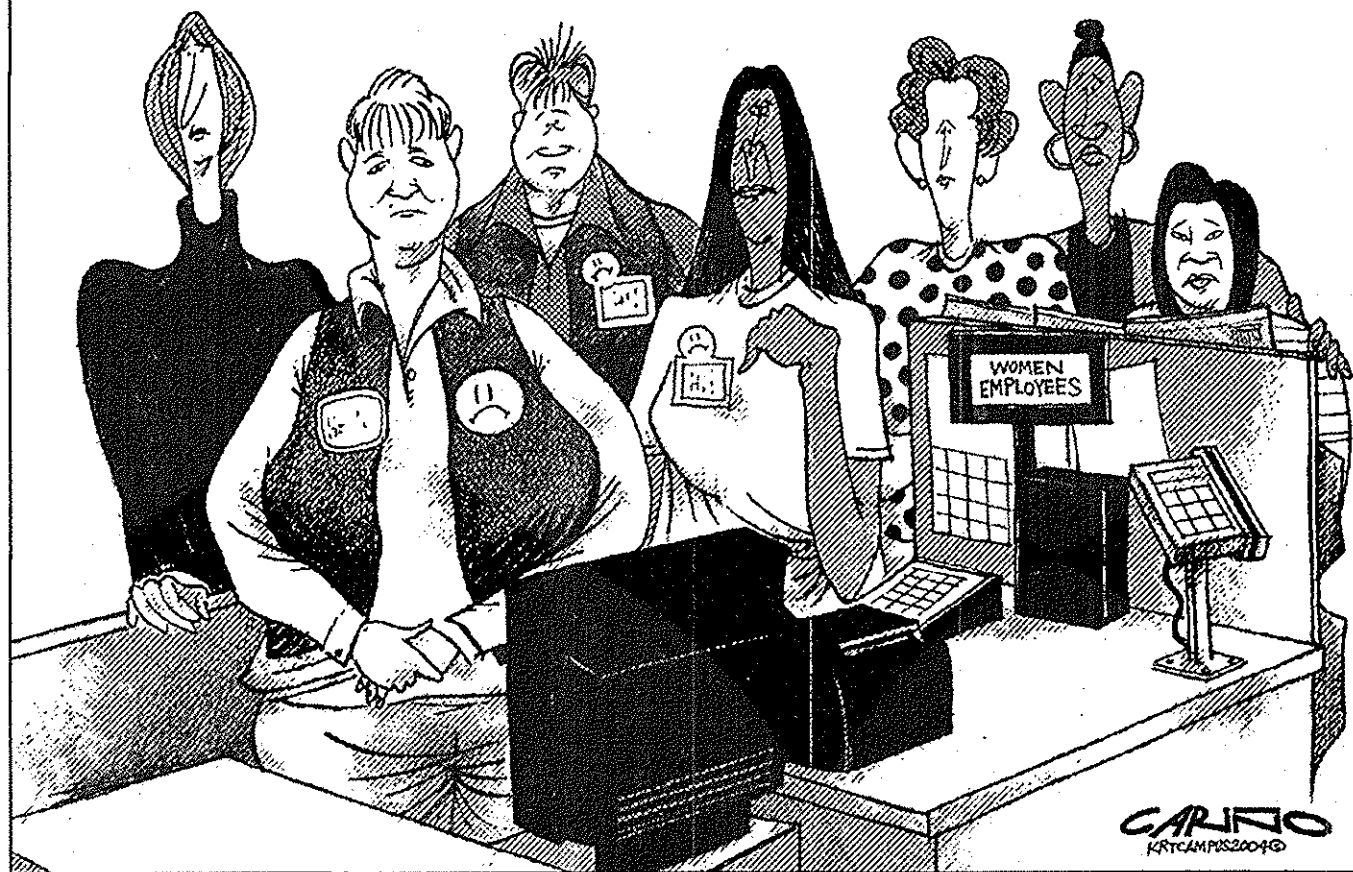
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## WAL-MART'S DISCOUNTED GOODS....



## Politicians need a dose of humor

JOHN HIEGER | KRT Campus

If inspiration were a marketable commodity, our presidential candidates would be broke. The only thing both men have in common other than the fact they are both boring white guys is that neither of them is capable of rallying more than half of anything. If John Kerry and George W. Bush were cowboys, they'd never get the herd across the river.

Much has been made about Reagan's legacy as the president who could unite the American people. In the wake of his massive funeral bonanza, we've heard line after line about how he rallied the American spirit, and for a while achieved unparalleled approval ratings across the board. He was the "great communicator," but more importantly, people trusted him, liked his personality and, in a sense, he almost seemed human. At the time, he was a good model for the American spirit, at least on the outside.

To put it in my dad's words, "They'll be more people lining up to urinate on Clinton's grave than Reagan's grave."

In recent decades, politicians have seemingly degenerated back into the scope of sleaze that was associated with notorious power freaks like Nixon and his ilk. Folks from both sides of the political spectrum extend their faith too far if they truly believe their man is morally consistent across the board. Words like Lewinsky and phrases like WMD do little instill faith in the purity of our most prominent leaders.

So why is it politicians today aren't capable of inspiring the masses collectively? I think the gap between liberals and conservatives remains constant because there is no definitive answer to our needs. Both parties tout liars and prudes and both parties know it. Kerry is a stick and Bush

is a liar and nobody with half an operable brain is really that inspired by either. They need to rekindle Reagan's personable touch, master his acting craft and sell America a speech and personality we can rally behind.

Neither candidate is capable of altering the oil-and-water formula that comprise our region's political landscape. What's the answer? What unites the closely divided? For me, it's humor. A friendly pulse with an idea can bridge any gap.

That's the only way I can justify and tolerate my two conservative friends — humor. If my two Republican buddies, or "Nazi youth," as I call them, weren't able to laugh at themselves and at me, we wouldn't be able to kick the ball of debate around without coming to blows.

Humor lightens the air and makes vicious rivals seem a little more human. Ronald Reagan used to hang out with his Democratic rival in the House, Speaker Tip O'Neill, after the day was done. Both men saw eye to eye and were capable of putting their differences to rest for the sake of conversation and a good laugh.

Humor can transform a politician into a leader. It sounds simple but it isn't. Humor isn't easy to come by, especially in Seattle, where many people seem to be collectively uptight. Try sneezing loudly on a Metro bus and you'll see what I mean.

Locally, we could lighten up a little, and on a broader scale, America would do well to start seeing our adversaries as humans. As it exists today, only Republicans like Bush and only liberals like Kerry. That isn't cutting it on the scale of great leaders. Today, all the punch lines are about the candidate's message. We need believable leaders who can speak to the common threads in all of us, not cheerleaders banking on that undecided 1 percent.

"Humor lightens the air and makes vicious rivals seem a little more human."

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Drinking cola has detrimental effects

Editor —

I've been catching up on the newspaper. I'm currently reading your Thursday, June 3 editorial [page]. The [letter to the editor] on environmental issues present in Jambar stories caught my eye.

Don't get me wrong I love J.F. Kerry as much as the next guy, but knowing he

refused to sign a law that would have allowed us to know what we are drinking is wrong. Plus knowing that Pepsi and Coke have been taking 3,500,000 liters of water from India is wrong. So I'm starting a petition to get people to stop drinking Pepsi and Coke. Here are 6 reasons to stop:

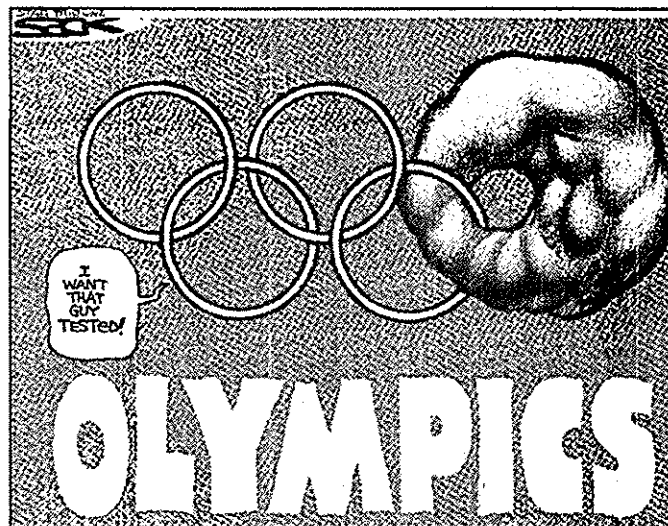
1. You do not know what kind of chemicals are in the substances.
2. Many farmers are losing their jobs because of it.
3. They refused to stop using groundwater from India.

4. They continue to sell their products.
5. They make commercials to make people think drinking their product will make them look young and sexy, when all that caffeine is emotionally, physically, and mentally affecting your body.
6. Caffeine is one of the most mood affecting drugs in the world.

If you need any more information on caffeine go to:

www.pe2000.com/caffeine.htm.

— Bracia Mitchell



# SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## A commentary: Clinton debate spawns talk-show fantasy

MARK STEVENS | The Jambar

Paula Jones recently challenged Bill Clinton to a public "debate" regarding her claims that the former president sexually harassed her, a claim he again denied in his recently published memoirs.

When I heard about this, I couldn't help but think ... "What a great idea!"

Hey, everyone has the right to a public "debate," right? I can just picture it now ...

(Entrance music playing in the background. Studio audience cheering loudly.)

ANNOUNCER: Hey everyone! Welcome to today's taping of the "Gary Summer Show." We've got a great show for you today! Who's ready for Gary?

AUDIENCE: GAR-EE! GAR-EE! GAR-EE!

GARY SUMMERS (dressed neatly in a designer suit and tie that screams "making money off the disturbing loathing of lower-middle class America is good business!" and wearing the smirk of a man self-satisfied, yet confused with his lot in life): Hello, hello, hello. My do we have quite the show today. I think you're all going to be very entertained by the tale of intrigue and passion that is going to be woven for you from the players in an intricately woven web of a drama.

[Summers always tried to be self-important, but his lack of education always showed through whenever he had to talk for more than a brief moment, hence the repeated "woven."]

SUMMERS: Let's not dance around the filly-flowers. Let's bring out our first guest. Paula is a retired mannequin from the Kaufman's in Little Rock. She's here today to challenge an old friend of hers to a little game I like to call "Truth or Truth."

AUDIENCE [Standing and rooting, forgetting that Arsenio is long gone.]: WOO! WOO! WOO!

[A woman modestly dressed enters the stage from the backdrop. She wears an impressive suit, name brand, no doubt and 17-inch black stiletto heels. She's used a trowel to put on more makeup than a softball team of street-walkers. She glides across the stage before coming to her chair where she promptly flashes the audience before taking her seat.]

PAULA JONES: Whew! Always wanted to do that. Thank God I'm not a newscaster in Youngstown. [Pauses. Winks at Summers.] Hi Gary.

SUMMERS: Hello, Paula. So you're here to challenge your old buddy Bill to a good old-fashioned debate, huh?

JONES: That's right. It's about time we got this cleared up once and for all time's sake. That man [sobs]...that man ruined my life.

AUDIENCE: Boo!  
SUMMERS: Let's meet him! Here's Bill!

[OK. You know what Bill Clinton looks like. He takes the stage wearing khaki-colored board shorts and a white tank top. He's got no shoes to speak of on his feet and it looks like he hasn't shaved in a month. Think bender. A long one. Must've been a rough "book tour." The audience continues to boo.]

SUMMERS: Well, hello Billy Boy. CLINTON [in a fake southern drawl]: Hello, Gare Gare.

[Jones leaps to her feet, flinging the plastic patio chair behind her and lunges at Clinton.]

JONES: You lying bastard!  
[She flails at him, using her Lee Press On nails as artillery. There are no security guards to stop her. Clinton looks unfazed. In fact, he may be sleeping.]

JONES [suddenly calm, back in her seat, minus her top]: I just don't understand Bill. How could you deny what we had?

SUMMERS: Wait a minute,

Paula. I thought you were accusing Bill of sexually harassing you. Was there something deeper?

JONES: I always thought so. I mean, I was supposed to be his only. Then I hear about him with some intern! I mean c'mon. Who hasn't messed around with a government clerk? I was special.

[Clinton is now snoring. The drool is collecting on his chest.]  
SUMMERS: Bill! Hey, Bill! Wake up!

AUDIENCE: BILL! BILL! BILL!  
[Clinton awakes. He adjusts himself.]

CLINTON: What?  
SUMMERS: How do you respond to Paula's allegations of alleged sexual harassment?

CLINTON: Her what?  
JONES: Bill! We're here to debate. You know what's going on.

CLINTON: Who?  
SUMMERS: Well, Paula. You mentioned Bill's other affair. Let's bring her out! Here's Monica!

AUDIENCE: [EXPLETIVE DELETED! EXPLETIVE DELETED! EXPLETIVE DELETED!]

[Monica Lewinsky comes onto stage wearing a three-piece suit and a bowtie. She's lost nearly 50 pounds and her ten-gallon Stetson bob as she bounds across the stage. Seeing her causes Jones to go wildly out of control, once again flying to her feet and racing across the stage to tackle Lewinsky. After a wild scrum, Lewinsky throws the smaller Jones from her and takes her seat.]

Jones [Huffing and now wearing just a matching Victoria's Secret Angels lingerie set and Lewinsky's hat]: You home wrecker!

Clinton [smiling like he's got the only lighter in a crack house]: Now, Paula. Play nice.

JONES: OK. Sorry Bill. I love you. LEWINSKY: You don't love him!

JONES: You don't love him!

CLINTON: You don't love him!

SUMMERS: Guys! OK, that's enough. Let's get back to the issue at hand. Bill, did you sexually harass Paula?

CLINTON: Is this a test? I don't like tests.

JONES: Look Bill, why don't you just fess up and we can all go home?

CLINTON [suddenly excited]: Together?

JONES: Of course.

CLINTON [staring in the camera, pointing with his right hand]: OK, I admit that I did not have sexual relations with that woman.

[Another rugby-style fight breaks out with Jones straddling Clinton's

chest and pummeling him with vicious words. Lewinsky sneaks off stage and into her waiting limo.]

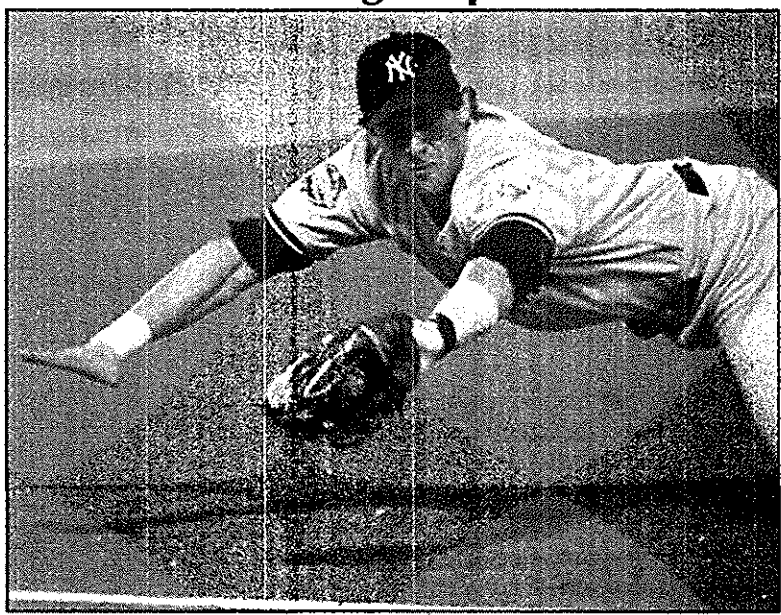
SUMMERS: Well that draws another episode of the show to a close.

For a final thought, I'll leave you with this: Love is a battlefield, my friends. We are young, and no one, and I mean no one, dare ever tell us that we're wrong. Until we meet again ...

And that draws the "debate" to a close. The moral of today's story is, as it always has been, people never follow Kenny Rogers' advice from the immortal song, "The Gambler." The never know when to fold 'em and they damn sure never know when to walk away.

MARK STEVENS | 330-941-1811

### Tribe nabs free-agent prize in Boone



▲ The Cleveland Indians recently won the bidding battle for free-agent third baseman Aaron Boone. Boone, currently rehabbing an injured knee, settled on the Indians because he liked the direction the club was heading. The signing, a surprise to some, comes as the Indians continue a surprisingly successful campaign, showing that rebuilding is working well for the team. Expect the team to be players on the free agent market again as they will be looking to bolster their pitching staff.

# The 4th in the Valley

Summer gas prices have you feeling less than patriotic?  
Get the most bang for your buck with these local celebrations.

## Friday, July 2

7 p.m. - POLAND Poland Village Town Hall  
Fourth of July celebration featuring live music and food vendors A Fireworks display will follow at dusk at the Baird-Mitchell field behind the Poland Village Town Hall.

8 p.m. - 12 a.m. - YOUNGSTOWN Anthony's on the River  
Caribbean Night featuring Rudy and the Professionals

## Saturday, July 3

8 p.m. - 12 a.m. - YOUNGSTOWN Anthony's on the River  
Backbeat Swing with John Reese

## Sunday, July 4

2 p.m. - AUSTINTOWN Raccoon Road  
Fourth of July parade

2 p.m. - STRUTHERS Fifth Street  
Fourth of July parade

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - YOUNGSTOWN Anthony's on the River  
Frankie and the Sensations

Dusk - AUSTINTOWN Fitch High School  
Fireworks display

10 p.m. - YOUNGSTOWN  
Anthony's on the River  
Fireworks display by B.J. Alan

