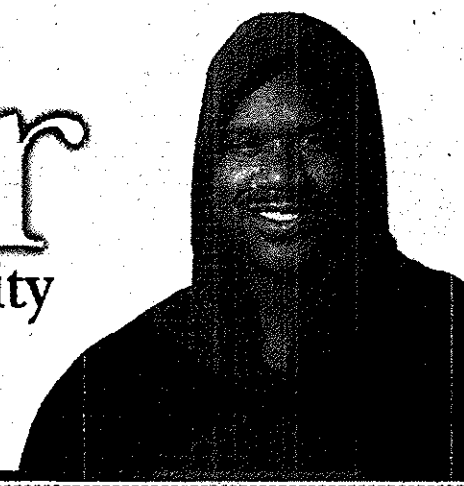




the jambar

youngstown state university



◀Berry's purr-fect role
Halle Berry fits into the tight, leather suit
of Catwoman quite nicely. Page 4

▶Shaq in black
With O'Neal in Miami, will the Lakers
regret banking on Bryant? Page 4

VOLUME 74, ISSUE 10 | THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2004 | WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM

YSU faculty rep to DNC Smoking restraint an option

- Mahoning Valley delegates for the Democratic National Convention**
- Delegates have been listed by name, hometown and the candidate to whom they are committed.
- Tim Ryan
Niles, John Kerry
 - Ted Strickland
Lisbon, John Kerry
 - Craig Brown
Salem, John Kerry
 - David Ditzler
Austintown, John Kerry
 - Judie Hartley
Warren, John Kerry
 - Timothy Callon
Warren, John Kerry
 - Glorianne Leck
Youngstown, John Kerry
 - James Kaster
Youngstown, John Edwards
 - Sylvester D. Patton Jr.
Youngstown, John Edwards
 - Sandra Stable Harwood
Niles, John Edwards
 - Renee Cafaro
Hubbard, uncommitted
 - Tristan Paul Hand*
Warren, John Kerry
- * Ohio vote selection
Source: Ohio Democratic Party

LISA EATON | The Jambar

Youngstown State University will be represented among the nearly 5,000 delegates who will converge on Boston next week for the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Longtime YSU faculty member, Glorianne Leck, professor emerita, educational administration, is the elected delegate for the 17th district of Ohio and will attend the convention to be held July 26 through July 29.



Glorianne Leck

Leck, the only YSU delegate, has been involved with the Democratic Party for eight years and said she feels a responsibility to the community.

"I am semi-retired, and I saw this election as being one of — if not the most important election in my lifetime," Leck said. "I felt that with the privileges of my education, my age, my good health, and my free time that I had a responsibility to do my

part to try to help regain our country."

Leck said she feels that our military occupation in Iraq has come at too much expense to our nation, not only in costing the lives of soldiers and causing disgrace with our European allies, but also in devastating us financially.

"Federal debt and the appropriations for the Pentagon have really been drawing away from funding for all human services, environmental protections, health care, infrastructure, jobs and from education at all levels."

Leck said that the vote for John Kerry this year should be important to YSU faculty, staff and students, as well as anyone in support of academics. "I can only say that indifference breeds indifference and if we here at YSU — students and faculty — have not paid attention to the differences between John Kerry and George Bush and the way that they regard education then we will get what we get from indifference."

About our current president's stance on education, she said,

"George Bush actually represents all that is anti-academic and anti-intellectual, and he votes and leads with those values."

"He is a C student who represents the idea that one should get their position and privilege based on who you know and not what you know and how well you do."

While the Ralph Nader factor in the upcoming election is one that Leck is not worried about, she said voters should realize that the upcoming election should not be based on ideological critique.

"I want to suggest that this election is about the political realities of the United States at this time and we cannot afford pure ideological critique," Leck said referring to the impact Nader had on taking votes from Democratic nominee Al Gore in 2000.

"I happen to be pretty good at ideological critique and on another occasion I would join right in on that with Ralph Nader and other independent candidates, but after what

see LECK, page 2

ELIZABETH TABAK | The Jambar

One Youngstown City Council member is hoping to update a city ordinance that was put on the books 55 years ago.

Youngstown City Councilman Mark Memmer is working on passing a city ordinance that would ban smoking in city owned and operated buildings and vehicles. The ordinance, which Memmer is working on and researching himself, is meeting mixed reactions.

Memmer said he realized it was time to update city regulations after being approached by a group of non-smokers.

"Where else can you sit at your desk and have a cigarette?" Memmer said. "You just can't anymore."

The councilman said that after looking around at city buildings that had no-smoking signs posted, he noticed that city ordinance number 49115 was consistently referenced. After doing some research, he found that it was an ordinance passed in 1949 that banned smoking in retail clothing stores.

"Obviously it was entirely written for fire safety and public health was not the issue," Memmer said.

Memmer stressed, however, that he is only focusing on city buildings and not on restaurants and bars, and does not plan to pursue them in the future.

Josh Benson, General Manager of Buffalo Wild Wings Youngstown, said he was worried when he first heard about the possible ordinance.

Benson said he understands that a city building ordinance is necessary

see SMOKING, page 2

Diversity director named

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

As students prepare for the upcoming fall semester, Student Activities Director William Blake will be getting ready to begin a new chapter in his career at Youngstown State University.

At that time, Blake will become the director of the Office of Diversity, a new facility that he said would focus on the needs of growing racial and cultural diversity on campus, especially the Hispanic, black and homosexual and lesbian communities.



William Blake

Blake said the idea was conceived by university President David Sweet and Vice President of Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson as a more concerted effort toward incorporating diversity on campus.

"The effects on students will be tremendous as many of them still do not have the knowledge or social tools to understand and work with their own culture, as well as the cultures of their peers," Blake said.

Blake, chosen by Anderson and an administrative committee to fill the position, said the office would work within itself and with organizations on campus to create educational and cultural activities to better represent and increase the "comfort level" of the student population.

He added that the office would also be involved in making diverse groups aware of how to utilize existing programs at the university to better suit their needs.

see BLAKE, page 2



▲ NYSP participants take advantage of a sunny afternoon with a game of baseball at Harrison Field.

Youth summer sports program a big hit

MELISSA FRANK | The Jambar

Perhaps you have spotted them on campus this summer.

Crowds of kids not quite old enough to be in college, migrating from spot to spot, laughing, running, roughhousing and usually with smiling faces.

These groups comprise the 380 children that are currently attending the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at Youngstown State University.

Sponsored by the Bitontic College of Health and Human Services, NYSP is now in its tenth year at YSU. Designed for 10 to 16-year-old students, the program offers sports activities, educational programs with instruction on drug and alcohol awareness, math and science, nutrition and life skills and free dental care.

Funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the NYSP at YSU has received a meritorious award that goes to the top 10 percent of the

220 sites in the nation. Since 1995, YSU has received a \$76,300 grant to help fund the program.

Though those working for the program praise it for the educational values, a number of the kids attending say they are there for the socialization, sports and safety.

Leon Edwards is a group leader for the program. As a YSU student, Edwards said he receives some pay for his services. However, he said the daily interaction with the kids at the camp would be worth working for no pay at all.

Edwards said not only does he like being around the kids, he enjoys the program because it provides a safe and educational environment six hours a day for children of low-income families who may not otherwise have anything to do during the summer months.

Ashley Gray, a freshman at Rayen High School, said that is exactly why she decided to join the six-week summer camp.

"I usually am bored all summer long," Gray said as she squinted into the sunlight. "I wanted something to do and it gave me the chance to play sports, swim and sit around and sing with my friends."

As Gray spoke of all of the activities she has enjoyed during the camp, Liberty High School freshman Dericka Robinson chimed in.

"I have made a lot of friends," Robinson said. "It's just fun to socialize, meet different people and look around at the campus. People seem to be respectful here."

Tyla Brown, an eighth grader at Holy Family, agreed.

Brown said she is now in her third year, and would suggest it to all of her friends. As she began running to meet her friends at Harrison Field for a game of baseball, she added that her favorite thing about the camp is that she gets to have fun while staying fit.

MELISSA FRANK | 330-941-1913
ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

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hotmail.com

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▶ Commentary: Proposed Ohio amendment right-wing bigotry page 3

▶ Sports: Summer developments in YSU athletics page 4

the redlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ CityScapes deadline extended to July 23

The deadline for the Youngstown State University/Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber CityScapes photo contest has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, July 23.

The contest is open to professional, non-professional and high school student photographers. The theme is "Neighborhoods: Where Our People Live."

Prizes will be given to first, second and third prize winners in each category. For professionals, the prizes will be: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500. For non-professionals, the prizes will be: \$500, \$250 and \$100 and for high school

students: \$250, \$100 and \$50.

The photographs accepted for the exhibit will be on display in the Rose Mari Smith Gallery on the second floor of Tod Hall from Aug. 25, 2004 to Aug. 1, 2005.

For more information, contact Jean Engle at (330) 941-3291.

▶ Gaudiose selected Alumni of the Month

Martin K. Gaudiose, LPCCE, has been named "Alumni of the Month" for July by Youngstown State University.

Gaudiose is Chief of Treatment and Recovery Services at the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction, a position he has held since May. He had previously worked as Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Services Inc. in Youngstown.



Scattered Storms
High|85° Low|66°

the jambar poll question

Will you still eat at Sheetz?

vote online
www.thejambar.com

SMOKING

FROM PAGE 1

for non-smokers who have to go to meetings, run errands and work in city buildings. However, he does not want to see restaurants affected because he is afraid it could affect business.

"A large number of people come to bars to be able to have a few beers and smoke a few cigarettes," Benson said. "I think business would really suffer without revenue from my smoking customers. If it's too smoky you can choose not to go back."

Memmer said he has met some mixed reactions, but has found support, even among smokers.

"They are just basically like 'you gotta do what you gotta do,'" Memmer said.

JoAnne Wilmitch, a clerk at Butler Wick & Co. in the city center one building says that she understands why the ordinance is being proposed, but believes it is a form of discrimination.

"I've been a smoker for 25 years and on my break at work I try to have enough respect to go outside and smoke," Wilmitch said. "I don't puff away and blow my smoke on people who don't smoke."

However, Youngstown State University freshman Brooke O'Neil said she would rather not have to breathe in other people's smoke, and said she wishes city council would go further than city buildings.

"I think the ban they are trying to do is great," O'Neil said. "You go into a place with clean clothes and you go home smelling like a smokestack. It's nasty."

Memmer said the ordinance would be up for a vote by the city council at their Aug. 18 meeting.

ELIZABETH TABAK | 330-941-1991

Sheetz possible link between Pennsylvania-Ohio salmonella cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AKRON, Ohio - Health officials are investigating 13 cases of salmonella in Ohioans who say they ate at Sheetz convenience stores to see if the illness is linked to an outbreak at the stores in Pennsylvania.

Ohio Department of Health spokesman Kristopher Weiss said Wednesday that only two of the 13 cases had the same bacterial strain, known as javiana, that's being investigated in Pennsylvania. More testing is being done to try to find out more information, Weiss said.

Four of Ohio's cases are in Stark County, three in Summit County, two in Mahoning County and one each in Medina, Cuyahoga, Lorain and Tuscarawas counties.

Pennsylvania health officials said Monday that 130 people were sickened in that state after eating at Sheetz. The Food and Drug Administration reported additional illnesses in Maryland and West Virginia.

Sheetz, based in Altoona, Pa., pulled all tomatoes and lettuce from its 300-plus stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina after the salmonella cases were first reported last week. The stores sanitized their deli areas, switched suppliers and brought

in new produce.

Salmonella, generally spread through contaminated food or water, causes diarrhea, fever and cramps for as many as three days.

"There is a lot of salmonella around," said Dr. Marguerite Erme, head of epidemiology at the Akron Health Department. "Just because you've eaten at Sheetz, that doesn't mean that eating at Sheetz caused the illness."

The local health departments are doing extensive interviews with those who were infected, as well as with acquaintances who may have eaten at Sheetz without getting sick.

The interviews will be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which are leading the investigation into the outbreak.

Pennsylvania officials had believed that tainted tomatoes or lettuce, or both, were to blame for the illnesses, because those who got sick ate those foods and because they ingested a strain of salmonella usually found on produce.

Wheeling, W.Va.-based Coronet Foods, which supplied the tomatoes, said tests turned up a different strain of salmonella than that identified in those who have been sick.

This year's Democratic National Convention will not reach as many television viewers as in years past and Leck wonders why that is the case. She said that it is significant that corporate sponsored tele-

The convention begins Monday and runs through Thursday. Speakers will include former President Clinton, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, Ron Reagan Jr. and the presidential nominee's wife and children.

Kerry will be formally nominated Thursday night and will then deliver his acceptance speech.

Anyone in the area who is interested in

volunteering for the Democratic Party or interested in upcoming events, including "Concerts for Kerry," sponsored by the Democratic Party Headquarters in the Mahoning Valley can go to the Web site at www.MV4Kerry.org for information.

LISA EATON | 330-941-1913

LECK

FROM PAGE 1

happened with the popular vote in the last presidential election I see this particular election as being about applied politics."

On the Bush administration's proposed amendment to ban gay marriages, Leck said Bush is sadly mistaken in his assumption that the American public will support him.

"Unfortunately for George Bush," Leck stated, "he doesn't understand that lesbians and gays are born into all kinds of families, religions and racial groups, and most people do not want their children, family and friends to lose their most basic human rights."

"I want to suggest that this election is about the political realities of the United States... we cannot afford pure ideological critiques."

- GLORIANNE LECK

vision has elected to show so little of the conventions this year.

"Don't the corporate sponsors want to support convention coverage? Will you be watching CNN in order to learn more about what is going on or will you be watching sitcoms on NBC, ABC, and CBS? Why?"

BLAKE

FROM PAGE 1

Blake stated that one example of an issue on campus was language. Blake said a rising number of students do not speak English as their primary language and that the office will work with them to increase their communication skills.

Blake's experience within YSU involves acting as an advisor to numerous student groups and organizations such as the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the National Panhellenic Council, Generations Reaching Out and the Student Leadership Board.

Although he is exiting his position at the Student Affairs office, Blake said he is not "divorcing" relations with it.

Blake said part of the objective of the new office is to engage others in its programs and processes.

Blake said the importance of the diversity office is increased by the fact that numerous studies have shown that, by 2025, colleges across the United States will be comprised of many different cultures.

"The national trend on college campuses is shifting toward working more closely with diverse cultures," Blake said. "This is our university's response to today's society."

Blake said he is unsure of where the office will be located and that the decision should be finalized by Anderson and Executive Director of Student Life Judith Gaines by the time the latter returns in August from a conference in Europe.

Beside job qualifications, a look into Blake's records show that he is well respected by his peers for his work with students. A letter from Anderson following Blake's involvement in the 2001 Student Leadership

Summit praised his work. "You do a tremendous job and constantly maintain that beautiful attitude," Anderson wrote.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Greg Gulas, who has worked closely with Blake for the past seven years, said Blake was the right choice for the position.

Gulas said although the position may be demanding, he felt certain that Blake was up for the challenge and would develop programs that will help the student body.

Gulas added he looked forward to joining forces with Blake in the future. "It's a great move for him, and he's a fair guy with so many ideas and a huge amount of concern for the students," Gulas said. "It would be a disappointment if we didn't get to work together."

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523



▲ Britney Isaac looks on while she waits for her turn at bat during an NYSP baseball game.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

\$495 and \$605 per month, depending on the amount of people living in each apartment. The cost covers rent, cable TV, internet access, local phone lines, electricity, water and furniture in each room. The upcoming academic year will see an increase of \$15 per unit.

"It seems way too expensive for Youngstown," Mavrikis said. "I can get an apartment in Austintown or Boardman and pay less rent than I do now. I hope that it does not increase any more."

Emily Eckman, former Student Government Association President and resident of the apartment complex, said she agrees with Mavrikis that the prices are too steep for Youngstown. Eckman said she does not agree with rent increases on an apartment building that is no longer brand new.

"Youngstown State consists of mostly commuters, and raising the price in

Youngstown is asinine," Eckman said. "It's not time to raise the price of apartments."

Elizabeth Horner, spokeswoman for Ambling Management, the company that runs the apartment complex, said the increase in price is due to rising costs of utilities and property.

Horner added that the company is not planning any promotional campaign to fill the units, but she said she is confident the apartments will fill up based on the response from last year.

Boone added that students should also be aware that, unlike the university's residence halls, the apartments are open year-round, and there is no extra charge for staying there on holidays or breaks. She also said that, though the two-bedroom apartments cost the same as the residence halls, it is approximately \$1,000 less to live in the four-bedroom apartments than the residence halls.

In contrast to the Courtyards, YSU's residence halls have seen an increase over last year, one administra-

tor said.

Danielle Meyer, Assistant Director of Housing Services at YSU, said it is too early to give exact numbers, however, the number of students living in campus residence halls is on the increase.

"This is crunch time," Meyer said. "However, I know we are up a little from last year, though not as full as prior to the opening of the apartments."

Meyer said that before the University Courtyard Apartment Complex opened, occupancy in the residence halls was approximately 1,000 students. The number dipped to about 700 students after the apartment complex opened.

Meyer added that the cost for Kilcawley, Lyden and Cafaro Houses, which also includes the cost of a meal plan, are priced at \$6100 per academic year. Weller house costs \$5000 per academic year because it does not include a meal plan.

The University Courtyard Apartment cost does not include a meal plan.

MELISSA FRANK | 330-941-1913

Classified

Help Wanted

Homes For Kids, Inc., a mental health agency in Niles, Ohio is seeking a full-time employee to provide community support services to children, adolescents and families. Mental Health experience preferred. LSW required. Fax resume (330) 544-9379 or call (330) 544-8005

Join the Jambar Fall Semester! - Distributor positions available beginning August 23. Must be available between 7 and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings to distribute The Jambar. Must be dependable. For more information, contact Olga at (330)941-3094, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or stop by The Jambar office located in the basement of Fedor Hall.

Housing

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Miscellaneous

The Ralph Nader Presidential Campaign underway at YSU! Contact: ysustudentsformader@yahoo.com or call at (440) 547-3046. The time to break the two-party strangle-hold is now.

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EEO "drug-free workplace"

EDITORIAL OPINION

-an editorial- 9-11 Commission wrong in Cabinet office proposition

The year was 1962, and images from a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft alerted President John F. Kennedy to the installation of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Cuba by the Soviet Union. Channels of communication were blurred as Kennedy tried to communicate with Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev. Some advisers told Kennedy to engage in a preemptive strike in order to take out the Soviet missiles, while others told him to preserve diplomacy at all costs to avert a nuclear holocaust. Kennedy was able to analyze the crisis from multiple angles by listening to the many voices, though sometimes opposing, within the intelligence community. Amidst the confusion, none questioned that Kennedy was in charge. The President of the United States, by being the one man every intelligence agency chief answered to, was the head of U.S. intelligence-gathering operations.

Fast forward to 2004. Images are flashing across the television screen of continued turbulence in Iraq. Yesterday we heard the news that the 900th U.S. military serviceperson was killed from a roadside bomb explosion. Since September 11, 2001, "instability" has been the signature characteristic of U.S. intelligence and clear solutions to this problem have yet to emerge.

Today the 9-11 Commission has released a report citing the need for a Cabinet-level position to oversee the 15 intelligence agencies and control their budgets. If this plan were enacted, the creation of this post would signify the most drastic step in structuring U.S. intelligence agencies since the National Security Act of 1947. Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin has stated that he sees no need for a new national security chief. Though his motivations may be selfish in nature (currently the CIA director is the chief U.S. intelligence officer) - we could not agree more.

Our reasons, however, are considerably different than those of McLaughlin. Unquestionably, the intelligence community has committed a long line of costly blunders in recent years. Critics consistently point to two major weaknesses in the intelligence community. When threats slip through the cracks, the mistake is blamed on a lack of communication. When a threat is incorrectly assessed, "group think" is cited as the community's tragic flaw. Not enough talking - too much talking - somewhere there has to be middle ground.

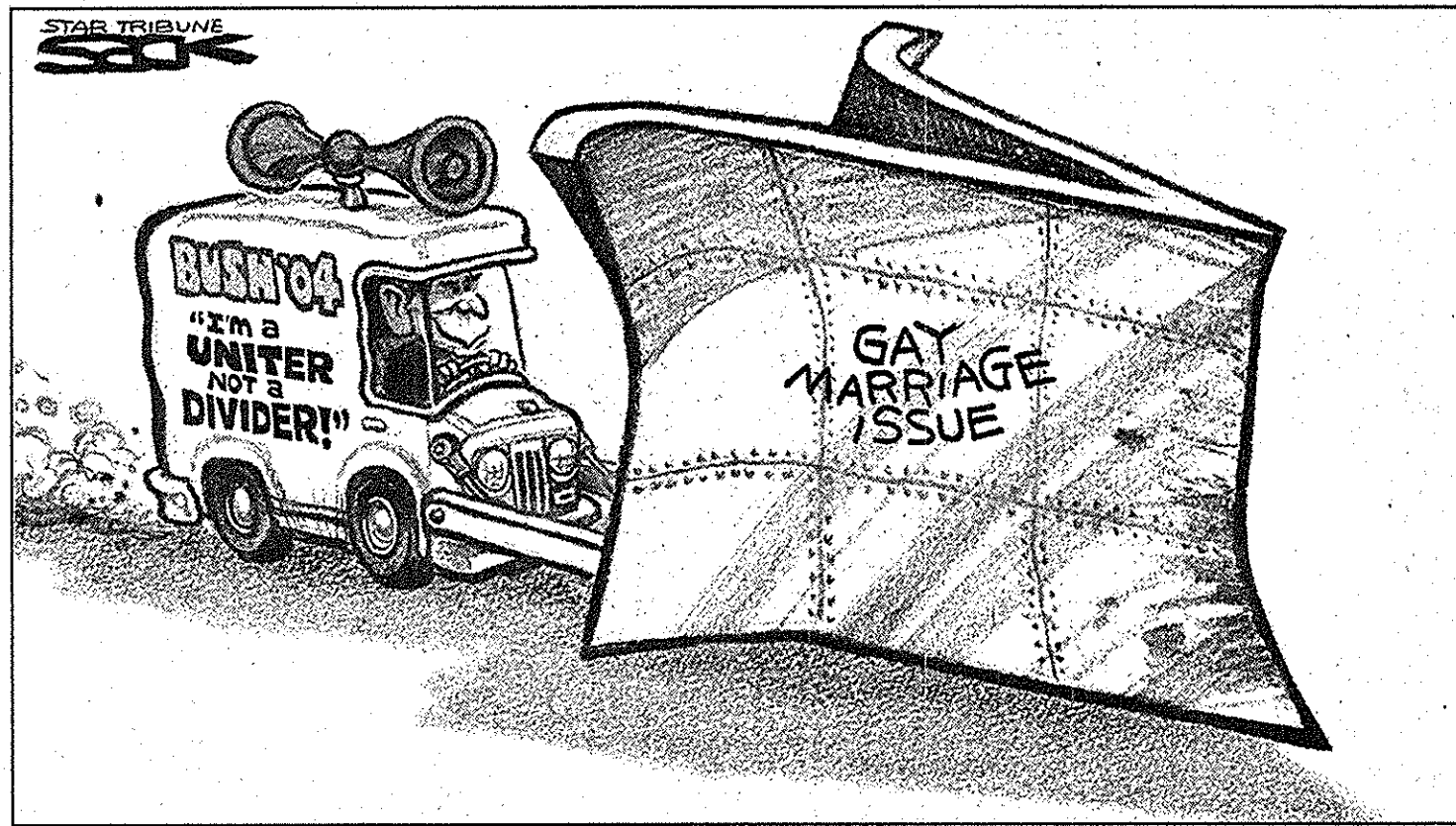
Victims plead for accountability. Accountability is what they deserve. And who is accountable for these pricey mistakes? The chief of the intelligence community - the President of the United States.

The creation of a Cabinet-level intelligence chief may help to facilitate communication between the intelligence agencies, but it creates two problems that counteract any benefits the position might supply. First, it filters the information the president receives, and reduces the diverse opinions of the intelligence agencies to one voice. If we have learned one thing from the Iraqi fiasco, it is that "consensus" can be a dangerous thing.

Secondly, the position creates an opportunity for the President to dodge accountability when mistakes occur. The Secretary of Intelligence is the Director of the C.I.A. is the Director of the F.B.I. - they are all first on the chopping block when judgment day comes.

If Bush wants to reestablish American confidence in our intelligence-gathering capabilities, he will need to ensure that systematic reform takes place in all intelligence offices and that accountability is firmly established for all department heads - including him.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief. Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition. The 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.



Ohio amendment underhanded

DANIEL GRIESEMER | The Jambar

Last week I turned off the television with a smile on my face when the Senate, for all intents and purposes, killed the proposition to ban same-sex marriage in the U.S. Constitution.

The smile faded a few days later, however, when I tuned into a telecast of the Ohio News Network.

The ONN reported that an ultra-conservative religious group called the "Citizens for Community Values" is leading the fight to amend the Ohio state constitution, through the means of initiative, to forbid recognition of same-sex marriages in Ohio.

Granted, this is nothing new.

The same organization was part of a religious coalition that tried to push the same amendment through both houses of the Ohio legislature. Thanks to the magic of bureaucracy, things went slower than the coalition hoped and the proposal has been put on the back burners until after the legislative recess.

The CCV, headquartered in Cincinnati, must now collect 323,000 signatures of registered voters from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties by August 4 to keep their plan alive. If they can fulfill this requirement, the amendment will be present on November's ballot.

But wait, didn't Ohio Gov. Bob Taft already sign the Defense of Marriage Act into law back in February? Wasn't that legislative atrocity enough to satisfy the blood lust of the religious right?

Out of morbid curiosity, I logged into one of the organization's Web sites - www.ohiomarriage.com - to get more information.

A quick once-over of the site confirmed my assumption that the recent civil rights victories in Massachusetts granting same-sex partners the right to civil unions have the CCV a little paranoid. My God, what if tolerance spreads to Ohio?

Though the DOMA permits Ohio to not recognize a same-sex union certified by another state, advocates of the amendment are concerned that the DOMA may not endure a challenge to its constitutionality in Ohio's courts. Their remedy: circumvent the process of judicial review by embedding the statute directly into the constitution. It would then take a

Supreme Court ruling to overturn the state-sanctioned bigotry that is taking place in Ohio.

Cute. Something then caught my eye at the top of their homepage. Originally, the CCV had set yesterday as the deadline for when all signatures had to be turned in to their Cincinnati office for processing. The deadline has now been extended to July 31.

I looked around their site for some form of an update as to how many signatures the campaign had received. To my surprise there were no numbers. No pie charts. No bar graphs. Nothing.

"[We're] smart enough to realize that, "Because Jesus said so," is irrelevant in a court of law..."

I decided to call the Cincinnati office of the CCV Tuesday to try and get a clearer picture of where the campaign stands. David Miller, the organization's vice president, answered the phone. Miller was not able to provide an estimate on the total number of signatures received. He did say, however, that he had to run out the door to ship off a large batch of petitions.

Still mailing out blank petitions eleven days before their deadline?

I asked Miller if there were indications that the CCV may not reach their needed tally. "The number of petitions coming in every week has been steadily increasing," replied Miller. "We're pretty sure things are going to snowball towards the end here."

"Pretty sure." I chuckled at the implications of that statement. Even after numerous church campaigns, road trips, radio commercials and a targeted mailing of 80,000 information packets by Focus on the Family, the CCV still has no idea where it stands in relation to its goal.

If the proposed amendment is able to make it through the "relentless attacks" of "homosexual activists," Miller is "certain Ohio voters will rally to the polls" to support this "necessary

piece of legislation" that will protect citizens from "liberal activist judges" who want to "make all of the decisions" and "take control out of the hands of the voters."

He had the song and dance down pat. It's the same tune that's being sung by CCV President Phil Burress.

Burress stated in a June pamphlet produced by his organization that the amendment is a necessary defense against the civil agenda of same-sex activists. What is that "agenda?" I'd summarize, but Burress said it best. (Sing along, kids - you know the lyrics.)

"They've spelled out clearly their next step. Legalization of same-sex marriage in one state is just one part of a larger plan by which activists hope to achieve complete normalization of homosexuality, destruction of the traditional family and abolition of religious freedom."

Destruction of the traditional family? Abolition of religious freedom? Funny - I must have missed that in the section marked "Our Agenda" in the "Guide to Being Gay" brochure I received with my rainbow-colored membership card.

Moreover, I'd like to figure out who the "they" he's referring to is.

Face it. There's hardly even a solidified "LGBT community," let alone an entire army of homosexuals striving to unravel the "moral fabric" of our society. We do not possess a common ethnicity, socioeconomic status or belief system to unite us, and to top it all off, a good portion of our "membership" is still in the closet.

What we do possess, however, is a small group of committed individuals who are working hard to defeat the ridiculous constitutional amendment supported by the CCV.

But unlike the opposition, we do not possess the luxuries of pulpits and television networks to rally support for our efforts. We're also smart enough to realize that, "Because Jesus said so," is irrelevant in a court of law, and that the principles contained in our Constitution and Bill of Rights carry more weight in a free and democratic society than scriptural condemnations of a sexual orientation that is not ours to control.

DANIEL GRIESEMER | 330-941-1807

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Religion not only argument against benefits

The Jambar reports that some Ohio universities are extending same-sex "domestic partners" health benefits to gay and lesbian workers. We've traveled that road; 14,000 people were scandalized. Trustees and administrators ought to confidently dispatch the question.

Trustees religious and conservative must ruthlessly distinguish the insurance actuary's statistical risk-premium group from the priest's sanctified man and wife from the family as thought of for childbearing and child rearing. YSU's concern is "covered persons" who make up the insurer's statistical "family," a sort of commercial fiction. Uncle Joe, longtime resident in your home, is family, but not in the insurer's statistical

"family." Your boomerang baby past the age of dependent coverage is family, but has disappeared from the insurer's statistical "family."

YSU and insurers sanctify no relations among "covered persons".

Insurers may define "covered persons" as they wish, excluding some, including others. Insurers need stable but not sanctified relations to create adult "covered persons" for statistical "families." Insurers rely on marriage as a stable relation. Many people conflate marriage with the stable relation insurers need. Insurers don't need marriage; certification as a "domestic partner" seems sufficient.

Good reason exists to oppose "domestic partners" benefits. Startlingly, religion isn't among them.

Trustees and administrators therefore may choose to condemn the gay and lesbian agenda, oppose sanctification or civil recognition of irregular relationships, affirm the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman - and extend health benefits to "covered persons" known as

"domestic partners." Luke 10:25-37 may offer a Christian view.

Uninsured YSU bargaining unit employees arguably have a stronger claim to health insurance benefits than do uninsured non-employees, such as "domestic partners," seeking to form a new class of "covered persons" under YSU-paid health insurance. They will be ignored. YSU's distribution of health care is, like all America's, a partial parity scheme. Partial parity schemes are corrupted by the medical establishment into quasi-closed shop structures that cripple peoples' ability to conduct even inexpensive medical transactions. That's why health insurance is important; its absence terrifying.

For example, Veterans Administration health care by law achieves no more than about 8% of what may be called general medical purchasing parity (GMPP). Physicians in private practice, whose restraint of trade may be more debatable, achieve about 70% of GMPP. Touted by President

Bush here in May, Community Health Centers achieve in theory 100% of GMPP for primary care.

Trustees and administrators ought to therefore give fair thought in their decision to publicly endorsing a unitary statistical risk-premium group comprising all Americans, and a plan of general medical purchasing parity, or universal health care.

- Jack Labusch
Parking Services

Denying partner benefits shows moral leadership

YSU-OEA leaders are talking about the "moral high ground" and "doing the fair and right thing." It is seriously amusing to me when relativists talk this way about anything. On the other hand, maybe this is

just a way to appear to hold absolutes and to try to convince the public that homosexual relationships are absolutely a good thing.

I also question the concept that YSU "must keep pace with the other state universities." Perhaps instead YSU could show some moral leadership by opposing domestic partner benefits. WE might be surprised to find public appreciation of strong leadership on this issue.

My opinion is based on the philosophical system that includes the creator God who has the right to define the absolutes. The granting of domestic partner benefits would be a statement that homosexual activity is not immoral.

Therefore, although I am in favor of benefits to all people, I am against public support or acceptance of domestic partner (homosexual) benefits.

- Dr. Phil Munro
Electrical & Computer Engineering

Have an opinion? We want to hear from you! E-mail us at thejambar@hotmail.com

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



SHAQ in BLACK

Will banking on Kobe backfire on L.A.?

MARK STEVENS | The Jambar

Let me just make sure I got this straight. Stop me if I say something that isn't true.

Shaquille O'Neal is the most dominant singular force in professional team sports.

Shaq doesn't always go 100 percent all the time, but when motivated properly, can do anything he wants on a basketball court.

Kobe Bryant is not Michael Jordan. Kobe Bryant is not a team player.

Bryant may be spending a considerable amount of time incarcerated in a Colorado prison.

The Los Angeles Lakers chose to hang the future of their franchise on Bryant and slap O'Neal in the face by doing so.

OK, now that we've got the parameters set, let's seriously analyze the trade that sends O'Neal to Miami for a borderline up-and-comer (Caron Butler), the worst contract this side of Jim McIlvaine's (Brian Grant) and an unstable, yet talented superstar that never will be (Lamar Odom).

Surely you can tell from the tone of this piece that I feel that the Lakers made a mistake. But let's consider what Miami did.

This trade reminds me on the

surface of the trade the Minnesota Vikings made to get Herschel Walker from the Dallas Cowboys — a trade, you'll remember, that enabled the Cowboys to build their mini dynasty in the 90s.

The Vikes unloaded a bunch of players and draft picks for a player that had essentially seen his best days. They never competed at the level they expected and were never able to capture the Super Bowl title that they thought Walker would bring them.

The Cowboys — well, I don't really need to talk about what the Cowboys were able to do in the 90s following that trade.

So, history's in the Lakers' favor, right?

Uh. No.

The two trades have significant differences. First of all, a running back is severely dependent on the other players on his team. Linemen, the quarterback, the receivers, even the defense all play a pivotal role in how much a running back is able to contribute to his team.

Shaq doesn't rely on anybody. Just give him the damn ball. Let him do his thing. Sure, it helps if the perimeter players can hit some shots to open things up inside for him, but it's less than essential.

Second of all, the Cowboys really didn't look at the trade as their direct

way to get players to build on. Sure, they took on five players, but what they really got of value was seven draft choices. That wasn't a typo. I said seven.

Among the players the Cowboys drafted were Emmitt Smith and Darren Woodson. The Cowboys used the other picks and players to build the nucleus of a team that would win three championships.

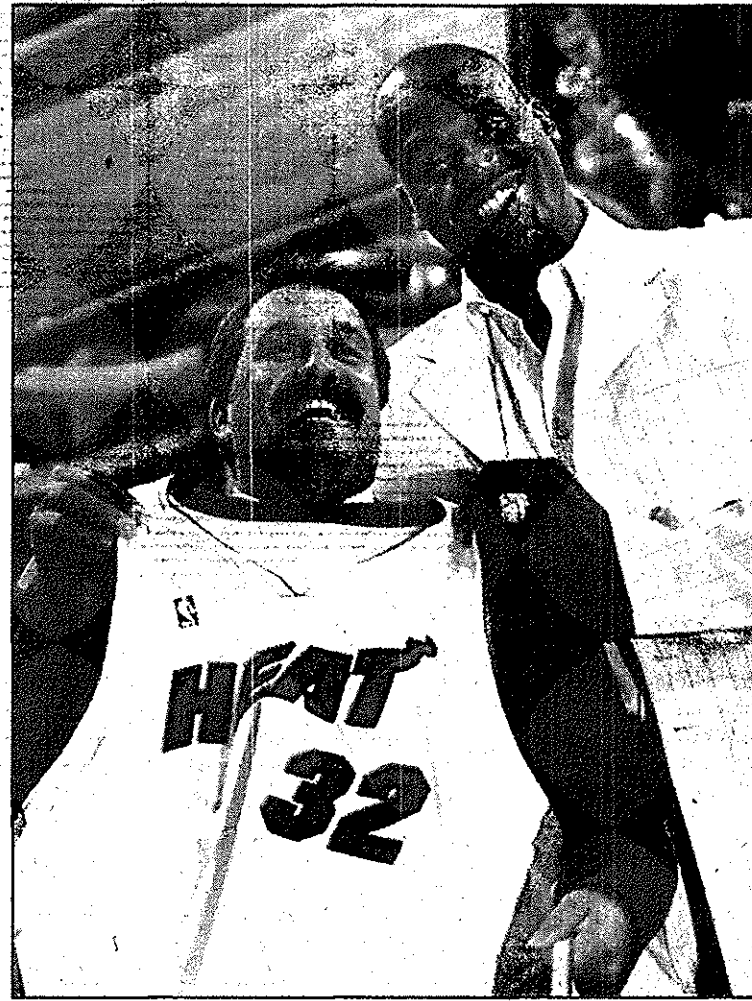
The Lakers got one first-rounder. And if the Heat play as well as expected (we'll deal with this in just a second), then that draft pick is going to be somewhere in the 20s.

A late first-rounder? Gee, knowing the NBA makes me know that isn't exactly a lock for success.

So the Lakers are going to trade the players they got to build, right? Uh. No. No one wants Brian Grant's contract. He plays hard every night, but he isn't going to draw much attention with the price tag.

Lamar Odom isn't really tradable at this point. No one can really put a finger on his value. Same can be said for Caron Butler. They're wait and see kind of guys.

So the Lakers are pretty much in handcuffs, tied to the bed in Kobe Bryant's room. And who knows how his court case will end up? In our country, we all assume that athletes don't rape women (wait for it ... wait



▲ Shaquille O'Neal, right, clowns around with Miami Heat coach Stan Van Gundy after O'Neal was presented his new Heat jersey during a news conference at the American Airlines Arena, Tuesday, July 20, 2004, in Miami, for his welcome ceremony to the Heat.

for it), but who really knows what happened and what a jury is going to do? In the meantime, Shaq is all kinds of angry. Like I said earlier, sometimes my man needs a fire lit up under his hind parts, but you don't want to be the one holding the match, you dig?

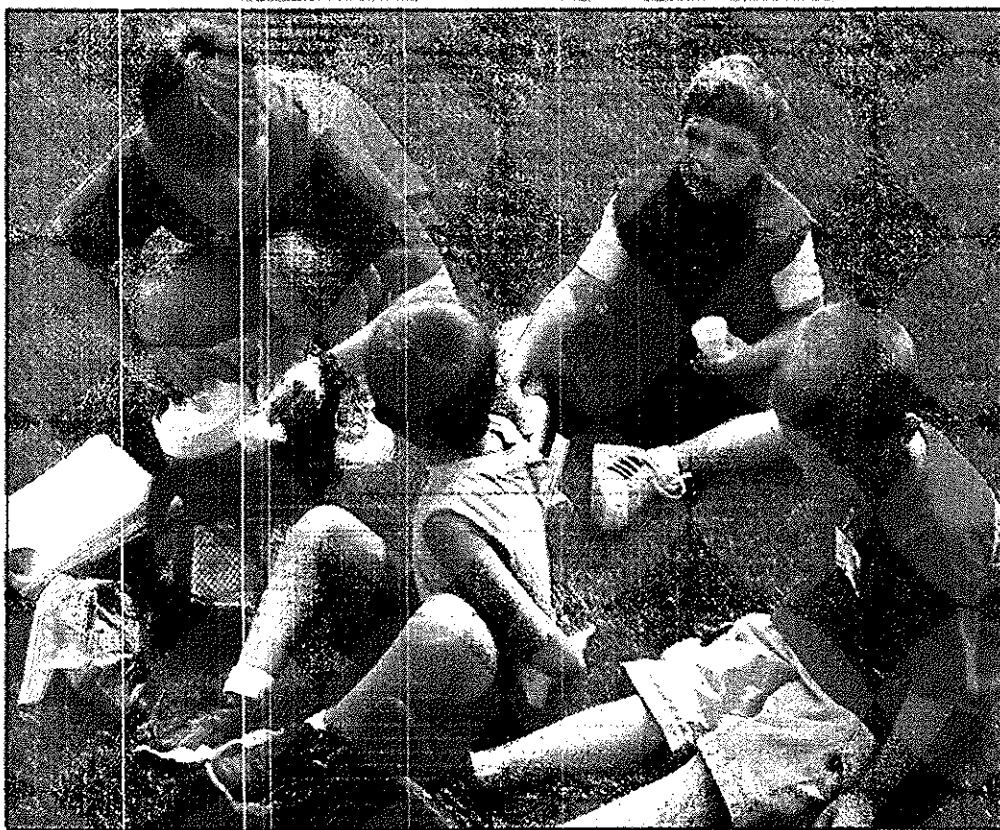
Shaq alone gets the Heat into the second round of the playoffs. Shaq plus superstar-in-the-making Dwayne Wade gets the Heat to the conference

finals. Shaq's angry attitude plus Wade's "here-you-go-big-boy-do-your-thing" deference that Kobe never paid Shaq means they are a legitimate contender next year.

Shaq's a nice guy, a great personality, but he's also someone you don't piss off.

My man is angry. Go on with it big fella.

MARK STEVENS | 330-941-1811



▲ Children from the Rich Center for Autism relax for a water break during an afternoon of games on the YSU track and practice field.

YSU sports wrap-up

JIM VISINGARDI | The Jambar

Since the baseball team's trip to the NCAA Regional Championships six weeks ago, the news around the Youngstown State University sports department had been slow.

That is until recently, where it seems as if almost every sport has signed recruits, named new coaches, or had some other news to report.

BASEBALL

One of the key cogs of the Horizon League champs, Jim Lipinski, has signed with the Evansville Otters of the Frontier League.

The 6-foot, 4-inch first baseman made his debut Sunday against the Chillicothe Paints as a pinch hitter. Through Tuesday, he has appeared in three games and is hitless in his first six at-bats.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Coach Matt Anderson has announced the signing of nationally ranked Canadian swimmer Sarah Porchak to the 2004-05 squad. The Tillsonburg, Ontario native will compete in the backstroke and butterfly for the Penguins, events in which she was nationally ranked as a junior.

TRACK AND FIELD

The track and field team recently completed their recruiting class with seven signings.

Three sprinters — Ashley Oliver of Twinsburg, Scott Striener of Poland and Emily Wollet of Canfield — will provide the penguins with youth, depth, and plenty of speed.

Three jumpers — Carly Youlton, of Ontario, Canada, Kyle Dalton of Labrac, and Anthony Barnes of Newton Falls — will look to contribute immediately.

And a thrower, Kent State transfer and sister to throws coach Shawn Cobey, Lindsey, will have three years of eligibility left. The Canfield native finished 11th in the Mid-American Conference in discus and 17th in the hammer.

FOOTBALL

Former Wake Forest wide receiver and defensive back, Ricky Perez, has been named a graduate assistant coach. He will work with the offense.

The Bedford Heights, Ohio native earned his degree from Wake in history and worked in the WFU Intramurals department.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On August 10th the Lady Penguins will take a break from

hitting the boards to hit the links.

Coach Tisha Hill announced that the first annual YSU Women's Basketball Golf Outing presented by Home Savings at Reserve Run Golf Course in Boardman.

The four-person scramble costs \$300 per team and includes green fees, cart, prizes, and lunch.

For additional information contact assistant coach Stacey Krueger.

BASKETBALL

Former YSU men's head basketball coach, Dan Peters, is now a former Cincinnati assistant coach. Peters, serving as interim head coach for the suspended Bob Huggins, left to serve as an assistant coach for newly appointed Ohio State coach Thad Matta.

Replacing Peters as the interim head coach will be Cincinnati's greatest player Oscar Robertson. The Big "O" said in a statement released by the university says he considers this a great honor and opportunity to work for the school he played for from 1957-1960.

Huggins returns from suspension on August 27.

JIM VISINGARDI | 330-941-1990

"Catwoman" role purr-fect for Berry

KRT CAMPUS

Halle Berry is the cat's meow these days. Or, at least, she is with "Catwoman."

"I have watched my cat and I listen to how he purrs and plays and walks and when he gets angry," Berry says. "And there's a sound that he makes that I've tried to use, too."

Her cat is one of the 60 homeless cats used in a scene in her last film, "Gothika," with Robert Downey Jr. In that film, she played a successful psychiatrist who is accused of brutally killing her husband. Berry's mother worked as a psychiatric nurse, and she helped her with the role.

"My mom was a psych nurse at a veteran's hospital for 33 years and I've grown up with that in my life — therapy and psychology and always knowing the value and the benefit of it," Berry says. "My mom was really helpful in telling me what things a person in that situation would feel, and how the (heck) they got there."

In lots of ways, Berry says she looks at where she is now and wonders how the heck she got there. Now the highest-paid black actress in Hollywood history, she also has an Oscar, Golden Globe, Emmy, Image and SAG Award, so she's always aware of expectations to better herself.

"People thought it was strange I was going off to be a

Bond girl right after winning an Oscar," she says about playing Jinx in "Die Another Day" after her award-winning role as an abusive mom in "Monster's Ball." "Then, they thought it was strange that I did 'Gothika,' or played Storm again in 'X2'; I don't care."

She's keeping busy, saying "my umbrella is full," with her roles in upcoming movies, "The Guide," "The Set-Up," "Nappily Ever After" and the animated sci-fi film "Robots." She ended her second marriage last October, and tries to maintain her privacy, saying, "There are some things that I still haven't revealed that are still secret. I've got strong family support and faith."

And, if reporters get too personal, she says kiddingly with a wave of her hand, "I slap them."

Although she looks stunning as she walks into the room for an interview, she insists she hasn't felt pressure to always be beautiful. "I don't buy into that pressure to be glamorous all the time. It's impossible. I mean, you get a pimple in the morning you wake up with bags under your eyes, you see if you can use it in your work, maybe incorporate it into your character."

There's no room for bags under her eyes in "Catwoman," where she's decked out in a skintight leather outfit, spars with Sharon Stone and plays around

with Benjamin Bratt. "Halle is one of the most dedicated, focused actors that I've ever worked with. She's arguably one of the biggest superstars in the world," Bratt says, "but I have to give her full credit because even in the most ridiculous or seemingly insignificant off-camera moment, she would be there."

French director Pitof says, "I know people thought there would be cat fights among the cast, but they were the utmost professionals, and Halle is a superstar no matter what superhero she plays."

And what about another comic book originated role she's known for?

She's not convinced she will reprise her superhero role of Storm in the "X-Men" franchise because, she says, "My desires have been dictated by what the fans have come to me with, and what their complaints have been. After every movie, especially the real diehard fans, they often say, 'Yeah you know Storm was OK, but she should do more, she should fly, she should fight, she should be more of what she is in the comic book series.'"

"I'm not really complaining. I'm happy to be a part of it as it's been a great franchise to be a part of, but I think the fans feel that in the comic book she's represented as a little bit more of a leader."

