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GOALS IN MIND.
The Penguin soccer team is hoping to shine under the new leadership of Coach James.
Page 7

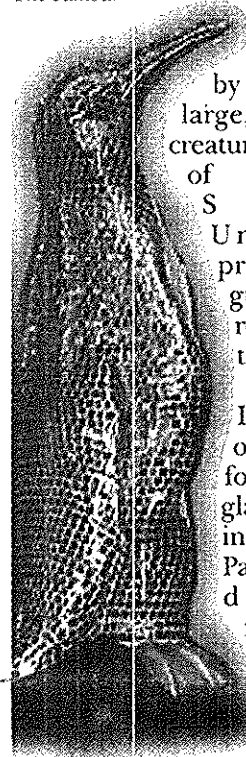
BON FROG
Art, music dance and theater: What more could you want?
Page 5

VOLUME 74, ISSUE 13 • WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM • YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY • >>FREE<<

Pilfered penguin: Waddle we do?

Police seek community help in tracking down missing sculpture.

MAYSOON ABDERASUL
DANIEL GRIESEMER
The Jambar



Penguins by nature are large, flightless creatures, but one of Youngstown State University's prized penguins has recently flown the coop.

"Mosaic In Metal," one of 31 five-foot tall fiberglass sculptures in the Penguin Parade, was discovered missing on July 17 from its display location on the south side of Tod Hall.

Catherine Cala, associate director of Internal Operations, notified the Youngstown State University Police Department, initiating the investigation into the sculpture's disappearance.

see MOSAIC page 4

Republican convention seeking boost for Bush

MAYSOON ABDERASUL
The Jambar

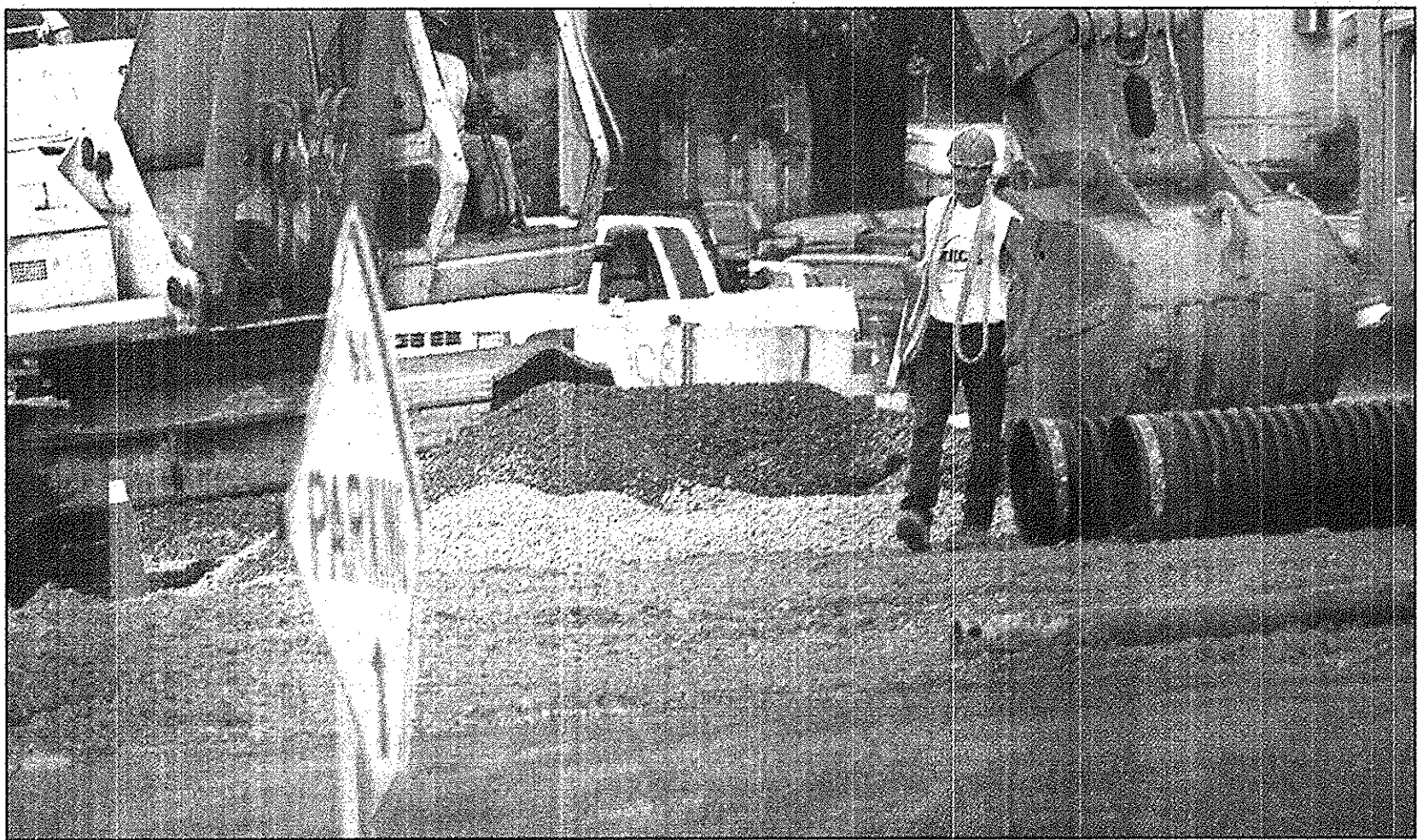
With the 2004 Republican National Convention days away, a Youngstown State University political science professor and various students took the time to comment on its importance, or lack thereof.

The four-day convention will begin Monday and will be held at Madison Square Garden in New York City. On the last day, President George W. Bush is expected to give his acceptance speech as the Republican party's presidential nominee.

The party convention is held every four years to nominate a president and a vice president for the upcoming election.

While the Trumbull County Republican Party Chairman said he and other politically active

see RNC, page 4



Construction began on a new student parking lot this semester. The lot is on Lincoln Avenue near Fifth Avenue, adjacent to the Taco Bell. Chuck Rogers | The Jambar

Construction creates parking woes

Scarnecchia says shuttle bus service helps compensate for lot distances

LAURA CAGLEY | The Jambar

As another school year arrives on the Youngstown State University campus, so does the large population of commuting students. While many dread the exams and lectures that come with returning to YSU, still more dread the hunt for an open parking space.

"I came to campus at 11:15 a.m. and there was no parking. Lincoln deck was full, and I had a hard time finding a spot in Wick [deck] because two levels were blocked off," said junior Julie Orto. "They need more spaces. Period. It's ridiculous."

To help show students how many spaces are available on campus, Joseph Scarnecchia, director of Support Services, took a Jambar reporter on a tour Monday to get a first-hand look at the approximately 6800 spaces available around campus.

"We have much better parking than most campuses," Scarnecchia said.

The first stop was the lot across from Cafaro House on Elm Street. Formerly a residential lot, an expansion was added last year that allowed enough room for it to be made into

F2 to the construction of the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Blair contends that many of the faculty lots are not needed and should be given to students

into paved lots.

Scarnecchia pointed to an example on Lincoln Avenue near Smith Hall. Here, construction is almost complete on a former slag lot. Weather permitting, Scarnecchia said, the lot should be ready to have asphalt placed on it by the end of this week. The lot should hold about 300 vehicles.

"We have been very fortunate that our administration has taken parking into consideration with construction," Scarnecchia said.

But he realizes there will always be complaints. He said that there are plans in place to continue creating new parking, but lots can only be placed where the university has the property.

Stops were also made in the lower levels of the M1 deck on Wick Avenue and in smaller slag lots off Walnut Street. Spaces were available in each.

Scarnecchia recognized that

see PARKING, page 2

"It's a tough year with construction and relocation. There are going to be some bumps."

— Joe Scarnecchia
Director of Support Services

mixed parking for this year. Indeed, the lot was half-empty.

But many students see the lots as half-full, and not in the optimistic way.

"On Monday, I missed my first class because it took me an hour to find a spot," said Molly Blair, senior.

The M24 lot on Fifth Avenue was the next on the tour, where 124 spaces were designated as faculty parking due to the loss of

to use. "I looked for a place to park [in M24] and there were spaces, just all for faculty," Blair said.

Scarnecchia said, "It's a tough year with construction and relocation. There are going to be some bumps."

To help offset the rising numbers in enrollment and the lost spaces, Parking Services is in the process of turning small slag lots on the perimeter of campus

Dialogue to examine "The Vanishing Voter"

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

Dressed in the typical college attire of jeans and a t-shirt, freshman Gabrielle Ezzo blended in with her peers outside DeBartolo Hall and discussed the reasons why she believes there is a decline in voters her age.

"Most of them don't see the point," Ezzo said. "They don't think they can make a difference."

William Jenkins, committee chairman of Youngstown State University's Freshman Reader's

Dialogue program, said the initiative of this year's program is to show freshman that their vote will count.

Jenkins said Thomas E. Patterson's "The Vanishing Voter," which analyzes the decline of the voting public, will be used in conjunction with registration drives, forums and the classroom to educate freshman about the election's issues.

Jenkins said the "snapshots" freshmen will absorb from the program's events is critical to developing informed views in

freshmen and help them discover avenues to make them heard.

"It is a component of citizenship to participate in the election process and we want to encourage good citizenship," Jenkins said.

Patterson, a Bradlee professor of Government and Press at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, echoed Jenkins.

He said there is a direct connection between those who vote and college educated people,

see DIALOGUE, page 4

INTODAY'S JAMBAR

- ▶ Classifieds | 4
- ▶ Entertainment | 5
- ▶ Opinion | 3
- ▶ Sports | 6

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the redlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

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

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

▶ **Confidential paper shredding available**

The Youngstown State University Support Services' Recycling and Reuse program will offer confidential document shredding for all campus departments on Sept. 13. Department officials should phone Jim Petuch at ext.

2294 to set up a collection time.

Documents may remain in file folders and paper clips, staples and rubber bands do not need to be removed. Documents must be in plastic bags or secure boxes and ready for the recycling crew to collect. All the documents will be shredded and the fibers will be recycled.

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

Jessie Kinsley, a senior accounting major at

Youngstown State University, has been named student ambassador for the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. YSU is one of five Ohio schools to have an OSCP student ambassador. She will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship for her student ambassador post.

Kinsley will promote opportunities in accounting and recruit accounting majors. She began her duties as an ambassador by attending an OSCP orientation session in Columbus on Aug. 20.

Weather >> Scattered Storms

86 | 68

the jambar poll question

Have you had trouble parking on campus?

vote online
www.thejambar.com



▲ Tessa Glista (left) and Tyler Tea (center), both first-semester freshmen, ask for directions to their next class at a help station near the entrance to Cushman Hall. Barbara Shade (right), associate director of Admissions, helped them find their way to classes in Fedor Hall and other locations around YSU's campus. Chuck Rogers | The Jambar

Freshmen housing residents adapt to life away from home

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambar

Standing outside Buechner Hall with a book bag and wide smile, freshman Megan Neil showed no signs of anxiousness as she discussed her new life within its walls.

"It's been so easy to get used to. Everyone here has made me feel right at home," Neil said.

Neil is just one of many freshmen experiencing their first week as occupants in residence halls located on the Youngstown State University campus.

Freshmen said homesickness is not a big issue and that the residence halls' staff has made the transition to living on campus an easy process.

Neil said despite the fact that she has only been living on campus for a short while, she has already been introduced to a number of friendly faces and has made lots of new friends.

Although she admitted

she misses her family and friends from high school, Neil said she has decorated her room with pictures to keep them close.

Freshman Sarah Fisher said she brought her teddy bear and pictures to make her room feel more like home.

Fisher, who lives in Lyden House, said the easy-going atmosphere in the residence halls puts students at ease and allows them to focus on classes instead of trying to fit in.

Fisher said she was apprehensive at first about living in a residence hall because, as a freshman, she expected to be met with little warmth.

She said she was pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of the Lyden Hall staff and her fellow residents.

"I love it here, I've met so many more people than expected," Fisher said. "I thought the upperclassmen would be teasing and picking on me because I

was new, but everyone has made me feel so welcome."

Freshmen and Kilcawley House resident India Foster said she brought pictures of family and friends to keep reminders of her loved ones close by.

Foster said she is pleased with her decision to stay on campus and that those commuting from home do not get the same experiences.

"There is definitely more freedom living here," Foster said. "Plus I've made so many friends from just walking the halls. People that just drive here miss that."

Fisher said she hasn't been hit by homesickness yet and laughed as she talked about how her parents were dealing with her living away.

"They've called me everyday since I started," Fisher said. "I think they're feeling more anxious than I am."

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

parking in the first week, and in particular the first day of classes, is very difficult but said the demand for parking calms down once students become acclimated to the campus and their schedules.

"It works itself out," he said.

But he also said that many complaints students voice are more or less inconveniences than actual difficulties. Everyone wants to be close to his or her classes, Scarnecchia said, but parking is available.

There are some levels of the deck [M1] people just don't go into. Everyone wants to be on level four because that's where the bridge is," he said.

Kurtis Longnecker, junior, said this semester he has not had any problems with parking because he arrives

on campus at 7 a.m. But Longnecker said he understands why students would look for the closest spaces to their classes.

"It's bad enough you have to lug them huge hardback books around. You don't want to walk that extra mile," he said.

To help remedy student inconveniences, a two-bus student shuttle service began running in the spring semester of 2004. Scheduled stop times will soon be posted at designated pick-up spots. A map showing the routes of the two shuttles are available on the Parking Services Web site in addition to a map of parking lots on campus.

Communication may be the key in helping solve some parking woes.

When asked if he had ever used the shuttle provided by YSU, Longnecker replied, "We have a shuttle?"

LAURA CAGLEY | 330-941-1990

POLICE REPORTS

Police arrested a Campbell man Aug. 18 outside of Beeghly Hall on West Rayen Avenue on charges of diving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a suspended license.

Youngstown State University police said they observed Frank Luzar, 60, trying to drive his car around the gate at Beeghly Hall, over the sidewalk and onto the grass area. An officer yelled to Luzar to stop his car and he complied, police said.

Luzar was noticeably intoxicated and failed three field sobriety tests, police said. Luzar was taken to the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office where a Breathalyzer test revealed a blood alcohol level of .217, police said. Luzar also had 14 previous suspensions on his drivers license, police said.

A large metal trash bin near Moser Hall caught on fire Aug. 18, Youngstown State University police said. When police arrived, a staff member was hosing down the smoldering trash bin, police said. The Youngstown Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire, police said. There was little fire damage to the trash bin and the cause was probably accidental, police said.

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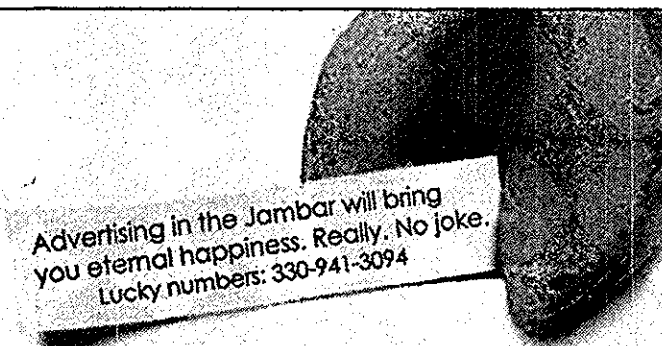


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opinion

- an editorial -

Where is the beef, mayor?

Monday, Youngstown Mayor George McKelvey announced he was endorsing President George W. Bush in this year's presidential election.

Not only is McKelvey pledging his support, he is also traveling to New York City to attend the Republican National Convention on Tuesday. He said if asked, he would even be interested in speaking.

Yes, this country is based on the principle of freedom and the ability to choose the political ideology we identify with the most. We embrace the multitude of differences, and are free to express them both publicly and in the voting booth.

Yet, it is questionable as to why the Democratic Mayor of the eighth largest city in Ohio that just so happens to be predominantly Democratic in the most Democratic area of the state would stand in front of those who elected him and pledge his support to a Republican president. Specifically, a Republican president who has expressed little interest in and little support to the economic and employment woes of this area.

Even more questionable is McKelvey's reasoning behind his decision.

During his press conference Monday evening, the mayor stated his endorsement for Bush comes as a result of Sen. John Kerry's stance on election issues and the large number of campaign promises that he has made over the past few months. Further, he said his party-line crossing is also because of the decades of supposed let downs by the Democratic Party in this area.

He was quoted in the Tribune Chronicle as saying "they promise us they will deliver the beef, and after we give them our overwhelming support, not only do they not give us the beef, we don't even get the bun."

Indeed, Mayor McKelvey, where is the beef? You say the Democrats have done little for this area. Yet, in the last presidential election, Ohio voted for Bush. The state also remains under the watchful eye of Republican Gov. Bob Taft. However, the election of these two Republican politicians has done very little for our state and our economy. According to the National Priorities Project, the projected state deficit under Bush's budget for fiscal year 2005 stands at 1.1 billion dollars.

Even worse, the unemployment rate in Youngstown alone has jumped from 8.1 percent in October 2000 to 14.1 percent in July 2004, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This statistic does not impress us as one that would make the Republican administration of the past four years proud.

You say you are fearful of asking Kerry's intentions and plans for this Valley. Yet, what have you asked of Bush? Mere hopes of being able to work with Bush on valley projects do not constitute a solid agreement or commitment to making headway in economic and employment recovery.

The decision to endorse Bush for the upcoming election does not seem a sensible one for the future of a Democratic politician in this area. Republican state officials are lauding the move as courageous, yet it seems to be more a self-serving act than one of bravery.

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.

- a commentary -

Follow that bird

Laura Cagley | The Jambar

Great works of art have always been prime targets for theft. "The Mona Lisa" was stolen in 1911; two separate versions of "The Scream" were stolen, one in 1994 and the other just Sunday. These paintings are priceless and some of the most recognizable art pieces in the entire world.

And that brings us to Youngstown State University. Yes, our campus has fallen victim to such an art heist. "Mosaic in Metal," one of the 5-foot tall fiberglass penguins from the "Parade of Penguins" has gone missing.

And while "Mosaic" is not quite as world-renowned as "The Mona Lisa," it certainly is a big, bulky fiberglass penguin with shiny metal bits attached to it. It's sure to draw somebody's attention.

There are still questions left unanswered in this theft, the most important of which being why. What reason would anyone have to steal a penguin? What purpose could it serve other than a very ostentatious lawn ornament? Barring any black markets for large penguin art or an auction on E-bay, no real avenue of profit from this theft can be seen.

If "Mosaic" is not safe, then no art is. Until the police investigating this caper have apprehended the thief or thieves involved, the public would be advised to secure their velvet Elvis wall hangings, sad clown paintings and singing wall fixtures like Billy the Big Mouth Bass.

Laura Cagley | 330-941-1990

EDITORIAL CARTOON



- a commentary -

Basic freedom under attack

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER | Knight Ridder

The public's right to know is one of the foundations of our freedoms and our democracy. Knowing what our government is doing promotes accountability and trust and lubricates the checks and balances that make our system work.

Security, freedom and openness are always tugging at each other under the American system, and the tugging has been intense since the attacks of 9-11. Our checks and balances help us strike the right balance, and that is why Congress's oversight role, reporting by a free press, and tools like the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are so vital. The public's right to know is the key ingredient.

But the pendulum has swung so far away from openness in recent years that it is silently and steadily eroding the public's right to know. And when structural protections like FOIA are weakened, the erosion can be rapid, and lasting.

Ironically, at the same time that government agencies are quietly building databases to learn and store more and more information about each of us, it is becoming harder and harder for the American people to learn what government agencies themselves are up to — even about those new databases.

The current Administration's drive for more and more secrecy has rightly become a serious concern for Americans across the political spectrum, sparking calls for greater openness.

Secrecy has its place in government, but government is always too easily tempted to overuse the "secret" stamp. When that happens, it comes at the cost of the public's stake in other important values such as safety, clean air and water or even national security. It was intrepid reporters and courageous soldiers — not government officials — who told the American people about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. The public began learning the truth months after those atrocities at Abu Ghraib prison

were first brought to the attention of military and government leaders.

And when it comes to congressional oversight, cooperation from the current Administration has been sparse and grudging. Oversight letters from Congress to the Justice Department have gone unanswered for months or even years. Attorney General John Ashcroft has been reluctant to appear before congressional oversight committees, testifying less frequently than any of his predecessors of modern times, and this, during a period when there is much to be accountable for. It has been reported that during last year's debate over the new Medicare law, the chief actuary of the Medicare program was told he would be fired if he answered questions from members of Congress. Some officials have even gone so far as to equate asking questions about their policies to giving aid and comfort to our enemies.

Government secrecy is being ratcheted up — sometimes conspicuously, sometimes imperceptibly. Even before the war on terrorism began we saw an Executive Order limiting the release of presidential records that sharply curtailed the ability of journalists and researchers to obtain historical documents. The president has also granted authority to the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services and the EPA to classify documents as secret. These are all agencies that control health and safety information of the utmost importance to citizens and their communities. A third curtailment of access — and its corollary, accountability — is the new and ill-defined category of "sensitive but unclassified" information.

One of the bulwarks of open government, the Freedom of Information Act, is also under assault. We can count on government agencies to issue press releases when they do things right. We need FOIA so we also know when they do things wrong. After September 11th we saw the

single greatest rollback of FOIA in history, tucked into the charter for the new Department of Homeland Security. This provision creates an opportunity for big polluters or other offenders to hide mistakes from public view just by stamping "critical infrastructure information" at the top of documents they submit to the department.

We all want to encourage industries to share information with the government about potential threats, but the Administration's approach threatens to actually limit the ability of other federal agencies to learn about and respond to threats. It also hamstring the public's ability to hold industries accountable when they act irresponsibly.

It doesn't have to be this way. We reached bipartisan agreement on a less dangerous way to do this when the Senate wrote and passed its version of the Homeland Security Department charter. The White House agreed to our compromise before the election of 2002. After the election that fall, the White House walked away from our bipartisan compromise and insisted on a harsh rollback of FOIA. We are trying to reopen that debate, but once the public's right to know is eroded, it is difficult to reclaim the lost ground.

Our right to know what our government is doing, right or wrong, is a fragile gift that needs nurturing and protection by each new generation. The Constitution reflects the Founders' confidence in a government by and of the people, a government that welcomes rather than fears different points of view, a government that admits mistakes and embraces reform.

The free flow of information is a cornerstone of our democracy, and each generation of Americans must fiercely protect this right, for our own sake, and for the generations that will follow us.

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RNC

FROM PAGE 1

students are looking forward to the "excitement" of the convention, some YSU students said it is not attracting their attention. William Binning, chair of the political science department, agreed and said he does not expect any type of "drama" this year.

"Today it is used as the kickoff for that party's campaign," Binning said.

The goal, he added, is to get a boost in the polls.

Craig Bonar, Trumbull County Republican Party chair, said he understands much of the excitement of the Republican National Convention is gone because people already know who will be nominated. Bonar, who will be traveling to New York City to attend the convention, said the loss of excitement does not take away from the continuing feeling of party unity during convention week.

"Obviously, it is a great opportunity to meet a lot of people and to really share some of our ideas on the floor and with politicians," Bonar said. "I know of a lot

of young YSU students who are excited to be involved."

Binning, on the other hand, said that while he has noticed YSU students are interested in this year's election because of issues such as the war in Iraq and the economy, he has not noticed much student interest in the conventions.

Freshman Katrina Boling said she was unaware the convention was next week, but did know about the Democratic convention. The freshman attributed this to her political viewpoint.

"I had it set that I don't like Bush and I want to keep him out of office," Boling said.

Senior Elizabeth Peluchette said she is not concerned about the convention. While she said she has voted in every presidential election since she was eligible and does not plan to change that, she said she usually studies the candidates right before the election. However, this year, she already has her mind made up.

"I do not like either candidate," she said.

MAYSOON ABDERASUL | 330-941-1990

DIALOGUE

FROM PAGE 1

which puts an emphasis on promoting political interest and education to these students from the beginning.

"Students need to develop an interest in politics. They need to become engaged in what is going on in the world around them," Fatterson said.

While most freshmen said they planned on voting, they were highly unaware of the issues.

Ezzo said she plans to vote and anticipates that the program will make her and her peers know and care about the election instead of carrying the "let's go vote and get it over with" attitude most have.

Freshman Nicole Shelley said she has never voted before, but feels that it is important for her generation to participate because they would be the ones most affected by the outcome.

"We're going to be the ones who will have to live with the decisions the elected president and government makes, so we should do our part," Shelley said.

Tyler Husosky said he is aware of the basic issues, such as declining jobs and

health care, but does not know much of the details.

Husosky echoed Ezzo's opinion that his peers do not believe they can make an impact and said the program will help them keep up to date and realize their importance.

Husosky said his peers need to realize they need to vote if they want to make changes in the society around them and planned to do his part.

"I am going to vote so I can voice my opinions on the issues and make sure my views are represented somehow in the government," Husosky said.

Jenkins added that another way freshmen will be able to make their voice heard is through an essay contest.

He said freshman can write about why they believe their peers are not voting and any solutions they might have to this problem.

In addition to other events, Jenkins said the program also will play host to Patterson, who will be on campus in October to give a speech on his book.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

Classified

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Miscellaneous

All YSU employees are invited to the Employee Bible Study every Tuesday beginning Tuesday, August 31 from 12:00-12:50. The group meets in room 2067 of Kilcawley and is studying the book of Romans. For more information email: Kathrynpc@aol.com

YSU students are invited to Campus Ministry Coffee Talk, starting Sunday, August 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Protestant Campus Ministry office located in First Christian Church next to the Butler Art Museum. Free coffee. Afterwards we will tour the local Habitat for Humanity work site. For more information call 330-743-0439 or email: Kathrynpc@aol.com

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MOSAIC

FROM PAGE 1

Thinking that Jeri Evans Cooper, the artist who designed the penguin, may have removed the sculpture to move it to its new location without notifying the university, Cala made multiple attempts to contact the artist. On July 20, Cala received an e-mail from Cooper stating that she had not picked up the penguin. YSU PD was then notified of the sculpture's disappearance.

The executive director of the Community Foundation, Patricia Brozik said that the missing penguin is insured for \$3000, but that the organization will wait until the police conclude their investigation before filing any insurance claim. "It is our hope that this thing turns up," Brozik said.

Though the disappearance is denoted as "lost property" on the police report, John Gocala, chief

of the YSU Police Department, said that if the penguin was stolen it would result in felony charges being filed against those involved in the theft.

Whether the penguin was lost, stolen or just got tired of staring at Moser Hall, many are questioning how movement of any five-foot penguin could go unnoticed. "It's not every day a giant penguin disappears," said Sgt. Rosemary Marsco, the YSU police officer who responded to the initial call. "A five-foot penguin just doesn't get up and walk away."

Or does it?

At least one local business isn't taking any chances. Michael Sabella, of Galaxy Seafoods on Belmont Avenue, said that he and the rest of the staff would be keeping their eyes peeled for the wandering waddler. "Well, penguins love fish, and he's gotta eat sometime," said Sabella. "But honestly, I'm not too worried. We haven't seen

any of the penguins on this side of the city from the Penguin Parade."

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, penguins prefer the arctic climate, but can survive in warm environments as well. Because penguins must regulate their body temperature, a lost penguin wandering through Youngstown neighborhoods would likely seek out a shady back yard or a cool swimming pool to take a dip.

"You have to remember, they are wild creatures, so it would be smart to exercise caution around a 5-foot penguin," Denise Christenson of Animal Control Services in Girard said. "As far as I know, they're pretty peaceful - at least I would think they'd be. They're carnivores but don't think they could contract rabies or anything like that."

Christenson advises that if anyone discovers a penguin lounging in their yard, the penguin should not be cornered or

approached and law enforcement agents should be notified immediately. "We can come out and net it, or cage it or grab it with one of the many hooky things we have that go around the neck."

Currently no reports have been filed with local police of Mosaic meandering around Youngstown neighborhoods. Worry grows with each passing day and many are suspecting that 'fowl' play is involved.

When comment was sought from the Detective Bureau of the Youngstown Police Department as to how one goes about searching for a burgled bird, officers remained hawkish about the seriousness of the crime. "There don't seem to be any detectives here who see this as a joke," said a YPD desk attendant. "There's no humor in crime."

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entertainment

Getting in the spirit of Bon Frog

BILL RODGERS | The Jambor

To truly report something like the Bon Frog festival held at Cedar's this past Saturday, you had to be actively caught-up in its spirit. The Bon Frog festival is a giant ruckus of free-spirited music, art, dance and theater. To be truly ready for this huge, all-out assault on your senses, you had to be psyched about it.

The Bon Frog festival, held a few times each year at various local venues, is the brainchild of Simon "Bon Frog" Kenneally. Kenneally is a musician who appears in local bands such as The Olympus Mons.

Kenneally created the festival to showcase the creative talent of artists in the Youngstown area. Kenneally said the goal of the show was to make people aware of the creative artistic force that exists in the Youngstown area.

"I believe this city breeds a creative soul in its inhabitants. We seem to have more artistic expression than other cities," said Kenneally.

When asked how Youngstown nurtures artistic thought, Kenneally said "We are creative out of necessity. There's less to do in Youngstown, less to look at. It's more economically depressed than other cities. We, the artists, are relying on one another to lift each other out of the physical environment in which we live. We rely on one another to keep us happy, to entertain us."

Entertaining? Absolutely. The first thing I noticed about the festival was just how packed the place was. Not in terms of the audience, but rather in terms of how much was going on simultaneously.

People were shifting throughout the entire café and adjoining bar. Intense, focused conversations were happening all around. Whoever wasn't talking was fixated on the performers. All of the people at the festival seemed to be totally concentrated on the central idea of the festival: creativity in its purest, rawest form. And it was amazing.

In the café part of Cedar's, a girl with thick black glasses was playing an acoustic guitar, singing soulfully into a microphone. I stopped to watch for a few moments before hearing more music in another part of the bar. I followed it.

Another musician, a DJ, was spinning in an adjacent room. He was mixing what sounded like a symphonic version of "Paint It Black" by the Rolling Stones. He was playing to a near-empty room, but he continued his performance with just as much heart as he would if he were playing



▲ Artwork from Billy Danielson is among the many pieces displayed during Bon Frog exhibitions.

to a crowded dance hall.

I still heard music so I walked into the next room. In the bar, there was a rock trio onstage. The guitarist and drummer were providing the background to a fast, mad bass solo.

There was a magician walking through the crowd, performing magic tricks for the audience members.

With all of this simultaneous insanity in such a close space, and beer, too, Bon Frog was, at that moment, the happiest place on earth.

It was apparent, even early in the festival, that the artists were having just as much fun as the audience members. Lee Boyle, member of the rock group Third Class confirmed this. Boyle's band was not present at this Bon Frog festival, but has played at those in the past.

"Simon works really hard to make these festivals a good time for everyone," said Boyle. "It's a rare thing that a local show is this organized and runs this smoothly. That's why it's one of the better local shows. It's just as good for the bands as it is for the fans."

The walls of Cedar's were decorated with paintings from local artists.

One of the artists featured was Angie Salavito, 24 of Akron. Salavito said she got involved with the Bon Frog festival after attending one in which her roommate's band, Consilience, performed.

She stopped a moment to discuss her

artwork, saying that she loved the way her paintings were displayed.

"I put a subtle message in each of my paintings," said Salavito. "I try to make people recognize the beauty that exists around them."

She used a plant as an example. "When most people look at a plant, they see a plant. They just take it at face value. But something even as simple as a plant can be a beautiful, complex thing. If I were to paint a plant, I'd bring out its colors and textures to make people realize that."

The next performers in the bar were Ill Element, a Youngstown-based hip-hop group. They performed for almost an hour, barely pausing for a breath of air between songs. Most noticeable was group member Al-burrell. While most members of Ill Element cycled on and off the stage during the performance, Al-burrell was up front almost the entire time. By the end of the set, he was visibly worn-out with sweat dripping down his face.

I stopped to talk with the group's manager, a big, friendly guy called Beat Down Brown. He helped me flag down the group for a quick interview. Out of the group, member Dolo fielded most of my questions, exhibiting a keen insight into rap and how living in Youngstown affected his work. He was the type of person you could talk to all night without getting bored or hearing the same thing twice.

Dolo and I discussed the lack of recognition that artists in Youngstown receive.

"We live in an area where nobody gives a f--k," said Dolo. "Everyone in this city is so used to the bullsh--t around here that we get more hate than love just because we come from Youngstown."

Dolo continued, "But they have to taste what's good until they know what's good for them. Why can't Youngstown be a major center in the world of hip-hop? Look at downtown! There ain't nothing here! Most of us have nothing! The nicest building around here is the federal building. I've seen a lot of f--ked up sh--t go down in this city. The rap from Youngstown is as rugged and hard as the city itself. That's what hip-hop needs. Not some of the rap videos you see on B.E.T. by some poser who doesn't know what it's about."

After talking to Dolo, I went to the patio to watch Sarah Terlecki. Terlecki is a dancer who accentuates her performance by breathing huge plumes of flame.

The night was winding down and I tried squeezing in an interview with Eric Layman, a.k.a. DJ Gravity.

Layman is from Boardman and has been spinning since 1997. That's all I found out before we were asked to leave the patio because the Cedar's staff was starting to close down.

Layman and I tried to resume the interview in the kitchen of Cedars.

"Yeah," Layman continued, "I try doing a multi-genre sort of."

"Excuse me," said one of the staff members, "you gentlemen can't be in here."

Layman became angry, "The freaking manager said we could finish up this interview in here!"

We were asked to leave again. Layman thanked me and left muttering curse words.

I finished the evening by watching one of the final performances. Three women were doing interpretive dance with Slinkys to traditional Spanish music.

I decided to end my sightseeing on that note and call it a night. On the whole, the Bon Frog festival was part rock concert, part museum, part circus and part rolling ball of crazy straight from Toontown. It was a fantastic time.

Kenneally is planning a Halloween Bon Frog at Nyabinghi. The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 30. Kenneally promises that the event will have a darker theme, fitting in with the holiday. For more information visit www.bonfrog.com.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758

Bentley returns, the show will go on

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambor

For Candy DiLillo, a freshman at Youngstown State University, boycotting the Youngstown Playhouse would have been the hardest part of joining the Save Our Stage committee.

Fortunately for her, she won't have to. The SOS committee and the Playhouse board of directors settled their differences Monday when the board finally hired Bentley Lenhoff as their new executive director.

DiLillo applauded the decision.

"It's what's going to keep the Playhouse going," she said.

The controversy surrounding the Playhouse this summer got a bit confusing at times. Here is a brief rundown of what happened:

In July, the board announced the return of Lenhoff as executive director. Lenhoff previously held the position from 1965 to 1985. But when Lenhoff presented the board with his list of demands as new director, they pulled the offer from the table.

Shortly thereafter, the SOS committee was formed. They called for actors, musicians, stage crew, businesses and theatergoers to boycott the Playhouse until the current board of directors resigned and Lenhoff was named new executive director. They repeatedly said they believed Lenhoff was the only man capable of restoring the Playhouse, nearly \$200,000 in debt according to published reports, to its former glory.

Intense pressure from SOS led the board president, John Maluso, to resign. When the board continued to resist, SOS



▲ Janeen Williams, (left) of Youngstown, and her brother Eric McClellan, (right) of Boardman, rehearse songs for the the Youngstown Playhouse "Night of Musical Splendor" program.

threatened to sue the Playhouse, claiming a July board meeting was held illegally.

Finally, the board announced Monday that Lenhoff would return and two more board members would resign. A celebration was held Tuesday at the Playhouse to herald the return of Lenhoff.

"Together we're going to bring this place back to the position of preeminence, one that it once had in this community and one that it deserves to have again," Lenhoff said to a crowd of supporters at the Playhouse.

The Playhouse will hold their first production of the season entitled "An Evening of Musical Splendor" at 7 p.m. The show is a benefit for the Playhouse and everyone involved is volunteering their time.

"It's just people coming together that want to see the Playhouse stage kept open," said Rozz Chapman, the director of the show. "They are coming and bringing their talents. It's almost like a variety show. There's dialogue that interweaves it, almost like a play."

SOS originally planned to picket the performance, according to Jack Ballentyne, the committee's chairman. In light of recent events, it is more likely the former protestors will be inside watching the performance.

"I think it's a time that we all need to come together to work for a common goal and that is to help this place survive. Bentley is the one that can do it," Ballentyne said.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

Maag Library receives CDs from settlement

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambor

Maag Library has received a number of CDs as part of a class-action lawsuit settlement against price-fixing music companies, and on the whole it is a mixed bag.

Assistant Reference Librarian Thomas Bell said the library got many good recordings, but also multiple copies of the same recordings.

"I believe we got ten copies of this exact recording of the 'Marriage of Figaro,'" he said. "It's a fine recording, but we don't really need ten of them."

Forty-three states were involved in the \$143 million settlement against the music companies and distributors. The lawsuit alleged that the music industry withheld advertising reimbursement for retailers when retailers would lower prices. The music industry agreed to provide \$76 million worth of free CDs to libraries and schools and \$67 million to consumers.

Maag Library's experience was not unique. Across the nation, libraries reported getting poor selections and multiple copies of the same CD.

One library system in the Seattle area received 1,300 copies of Whitney Houston's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," CNN reported in July.

"I would do the same thing if I were a record company that lost a lawsuit," Bell said. "I would unload the stuff that wasn't going to sell."

Bell said that there were other libraries in the OhioLink system that did not receive CDs, so Maag will distribute the extra copies where needed.

The CDs are scheduled to be catalogued and available to students for in-library listening next month, Bell said.

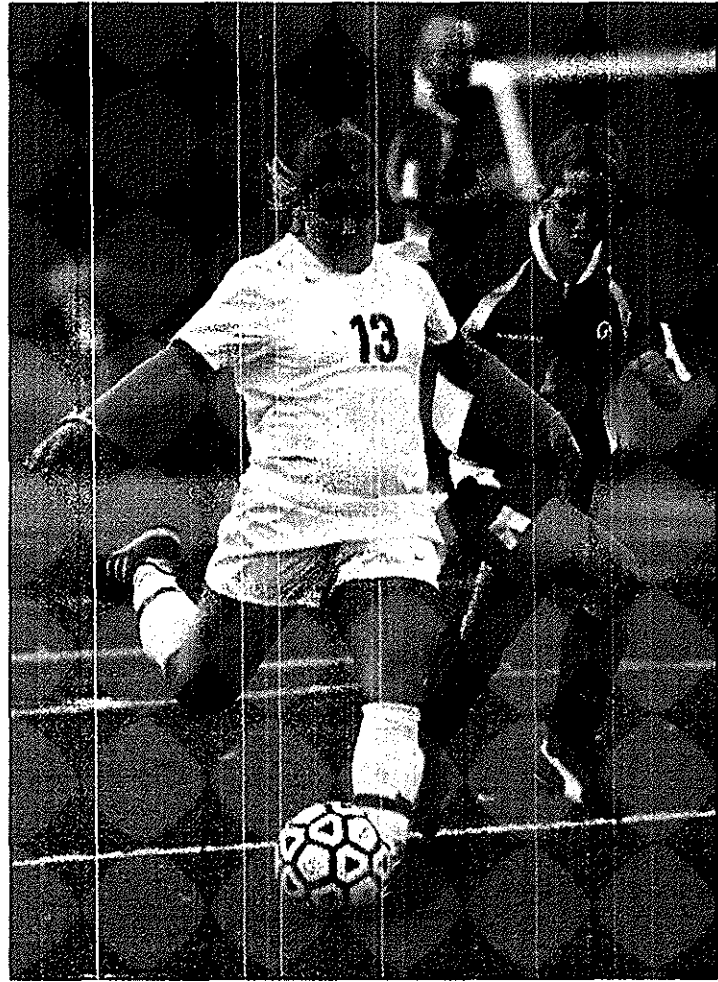
Though the library does not really need five copies of "The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos" CD of spiritual chants, Bell said there were definitely some classic recordings received.

"There are some real treasures here," he said.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

sports

James prepares for first year at helm of YSU Penguin soccer team



▲ Junior Sadie Brookman lines up for a kick in Tuesday's YSU Soccer scrimmage against Geneva College.

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | *The Jambar*

When first-year soccer coach Anthony James and his team take the field for each game, they have two goals in mind.

"We set two goals for ourselves this preseason, and we are trying to maintain them," James said. "We ask the players, can you be a better ballplayer after leaving the field and can we be a better team after leaving the field?"

The Penguins hope to improve off of a 2-17 campaign in 2003. If the Penguins hope to accomplish such a task, then the young team will have to come together quickly.

Coach James has no problem in playing younger athletes.

"I come from a background where rank doesn't matter, because we expect everyone to be ready to play," he said.

The players the Penguins will rely on this year will include senior Mia Railing, junior Caitlin Bestard, junior Sadie Brookman, sophomore Katie Duracky, and talented freshman Brittny Humphrey.

Coach James takes over the pro-

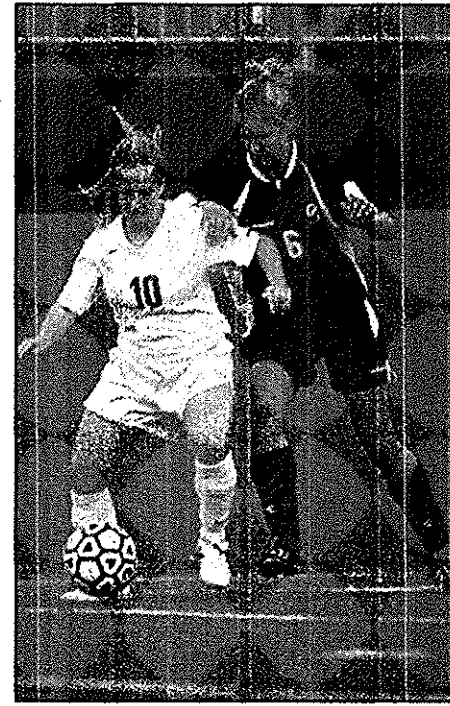
gram after leaving Division II powerhouse West Virginia Wesleyan. James will be the fourth Penguin coach in the eight-year history of Penguin soccer. Last year James led his team to a 16-3-2 overall record and won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship, which earned him his second coach of the year award.

James not only wants to win more games, but he wants to change the way Penguins soccer is perceived. "It's been a unique experience coming from a Division II school to a Division I, and it's exciting and obviously a lot of work, but we have to change the mentality of the players and the community. This is a new day and with time we can turn it around," James said.

So far the Penguins have been turning it around. In the preseason, the Penguins won the Slippery Rock University spring tournament, posting a 7-0-1 mark.

The 2004 Penguin squad begins play Aug. 27 at Robert Morris College.

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-1913



▲ YSU Midfielder Kim Jugenheimer keeps the ball away from Geneva College Midfielder Nicole Casper in Tuesday's scrimmage in which the Penguins defeated Geneva 7-0.

Young volleyball team prepares for coming challenges

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | *The Jambar*

As the Youngstown State University Volleyball team gets ready to begin their next season, Coach Joe Conroy discussed his plans for team unity and success.

Conroy, in his 13th season at the helm of the Penguins' volleyball squad, says becoming a team is one aspect that this season's squad has to accomplish to be successful.

"Our goal so far has been to create a team environment and to get us working together," said Conroy.

With a young squad, only two members of the team are seniors,

the Penguins are fortunate to have co-captain junior Angie Pasquinelli on the court. The junior setter, who ranks fifth all-time in YSU history with 1,543 career assists, will run the show for the Penguins this year.

Coach Conroy said Pasquinelli is a gifted athlete and has no concerns in giving over the reins to the three-year starter.

"She will be the key. She will carry a lot of the load and she will be like our quarterback out there. About 80 percent of the time she will be calling her own plays," Conroy said.

Shouldering the responsibility isn't a problem for Pasquinelli,

who makes it known that she welcomes the challenge.

"I love the pressure. I'd rather be in control of things going on out there because the pressure really doesn't bother me," Pasquinelli said.

Along with Pasquinelli, fellow team captain Melanie Pounders leads the Penguins. The senior adds stopping power to the lineup; she ranked fourth in the Horizon League last year with 1.23 blocks per contest.

Even though the team is fairly inexperienced, Pasquinelli has big plans for her and her teammates.

"We need to win more games and we need to go out there and

perform like we can," she said.

Winning more games will be a daunting task. The Horizon League is loaded with talented teams. One game in particular has taken on a special feel.

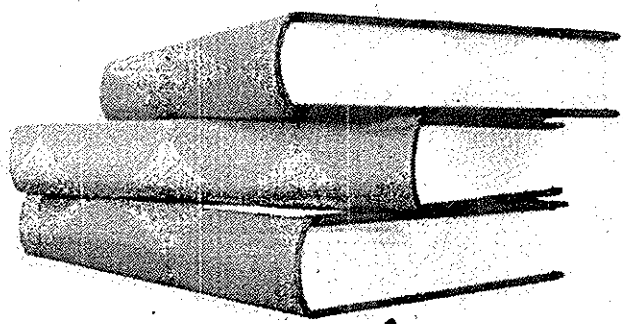
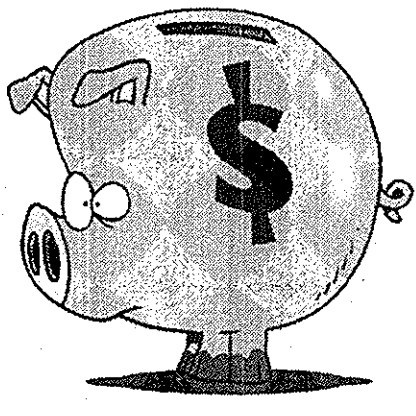

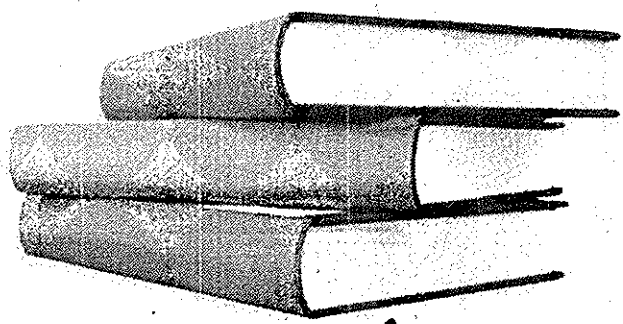
"Cleveland State has become our local rival. We call it the 'Freeway Rivalry,'" said Conroy. Cleveland State finished just ahead of the Penguins in the Horizon League last season with an 18-16 overall record.

The Penguins open the season against Holy Cross Sept. 3.

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-1913



▲ Coach Joe Conroy gets his Penguin volleyball team fired up during a daily practice session.

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