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OLYMPIC-SIZED LET DOWN.
The Olympics are over. Did you even notice?
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AIR HUNGER
Who knew you could say so much with gum?
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VOLUME 74, ISSUE 15 • WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM • YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY • >>FREE<<

University terminates car-entry policy

Constitutional concerns prompt removal of policy started in 1970s.

LEONARD CRIST | The Jambor

Youngstown State University has officially stopped the campus police practice of entering unlocked vehicles to secure valuable property that could potentially be stolen, Vice President of Administration John Habat said.

Habat said the university reviewed the practice with the Ohio Attorney General's office and decided to stop it because of constitutional concerns.

"Our concerns were whether it violated any constitutional rights to privacy," Habat said. "The university wants to be correct in its actions. And there was a question there [in the police practice]. And that's why the action has been stopped."

YSU suspended the practice last month and put it under review. The practice had been in place since the late 1970s, YSU Police Chief John Gocala said.

If officers noticed a valuable item, like a laptop, in plain sight in an unlocked vehicle, they would enter the car, take the item and leave behind a yellow card that read, "You could have been ripped off. Please secure your property." The card also advised the owner to pick up their property at the station.

University officials had said they were unaware of the practice until questions from a local newspaper brought it to light.

"Apparently, nobody ever complained," Habat said. "When it was brought to my attention, the practice was suspended and a review occurred."

Student Government President Angela Mavrikis said it was a wise decision to end the practice before it brought lawsuits to the university.

She added, "I do hope that the police continue to monitor unlocked cars without necessarily going inside now. But I do hope that we keep the same relatively good record on campus of car safety."

Habat echoed her sentiments.

"If you look at the safety record of the campus compared to that of the [other] universities, we do a pretty good job," he said.

LEONARD CRIST | 330-941-1989

Praxis policy raises questions

Passage of possibly invalid test required before student teaching permitted

DANIEL GRIESEMER | The Jambor

"What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"

For Kristin Dota, a secondary integrated language arts education major in the Beeghly College of Education, these words by Langston Hughes describe her fears for the future.

Though Dota said she has finished all course work required for her degree and carries a per-

fect 4.0 grade point average, one point on the content area of the Praxis II exam may block her from fulfilling her dream to be an English teacher. Dota, who has failed four times to receive the minimum score needed on the Praxis II "English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge" examination, is prohibited under current College of Education regulations from beginning the semester-long student teaching assign-

ment required for her degree. The policy enacted last spring mandates that education majors pass all areas of the Praxis examinations applicable to their degrees before student teaching.

"It's really quite hypocritical of YSU," Dota said. "They teach us again and again in our education courses that standardized tests cannot tell you what a student really knows, but then they turn around and say that they are going to judge by one test

whether or not we are 'highly qualified' enough to teach in a classroom. It's a contradiction."

Phillip Ginetti, Dean of the College of Education, said the policy is part of a larger attempt to align the educational system with federal "No Child Left Behind" mandates.

School districts nationwide have been instructed to review the qualifications of all teachers in the classroom. Those who have not

see PRAXIS, page 4



▲ Crispy prepares his sword for swallowing during a performance by the Crispy Family Carnival on Wednesday at Peaberry's in Kilcavley Center. The group performed a variety of painful-looking acts, including walking on broken glass, dancing with a bullwhip, and lying on a bed of nails.

Chuck Rogos | The Jambor

First SGA meeting focused on initiatives

CHRISTINA POE | The Jambor

The Student Government Association held their first general meeting of the new semester Monday evening.

Amid a new, professional format, the members of SGA discussed past and current issues, including computer literacy, a summit meeting and Youngstown State University football.

Vice President for Student Affairs Shivani Jindal brought up the issue of student computer illiteracy on campus.

Jindal said that the core of the issue lies in the number of traditional and nontraditional students who have expressed problems in classes due to their unfamiliarity with computers.

She suggested that a computer skills assessment test is necessary to ensure that all students are successfully able to navigate through college and in their future jobs.

"This is a skill they will need in college and the real world," Jindal said. "We're trying to spearhead a test that would assess their program knowledge and place them in basic computer classes if they need it."

Vice President J.T. Holt updated the body on the status of the Northeast Ohio College and University Summit.

Holt said the idea for the summit originated in June when President George W. Bush visited Youngstown.

The event, which will be open to YSU students, is to raise awareness of the importance of the presidential election by presenting the issues to the audience in an unbiased setting.

"The timing for this event is not accidental," Holt said. "We want to get people who are unsure of the issues or don't care about them to care and listen and get excited about the voting process."

Holt said invitations were sent to possible speakers, such as Congressman Tim Ryan (D-17)

see SGA, page 2

wYre web radio readies for launch

MAYSOON ABDELRAJUL | The Jambor

Keep your ears open. A new form of entertainment will be heard on campus within the next few weeks.

A Youngstown State University based Internet radio station, called wYre, is currently being readied for its first broadcast in two weeks.

Student Government Association's Vice President of Financial Affairs Bob McGovern said the project has been in discussion for three years. SGA passed a motion at its Aug. 12 retreat to start the station.

McGovern said the station would have an open format, allowing the disc jockeys to play what the students want to hear. During the preliminary weeks, the station will be on air from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

McGovern said the new Internet station is funded entirely by SGA. In preparation, the organization purchased a \$1200 computer and recently spent \$100 on sound equipment.

The new station will also offer new promotional possibilities on campus. Instead of

organizations putting fliers all over YSU, the Internet radio station could become a good way to advertise, McGovern said.

There is a mixed response to what students would like to hear on the radio station. Senior Greg Denovchek said he wants more music and less talk, adding that he wants to be more informed about YSU's athletic teams.

"If they make it fun and entertaining, then it is a good investment," Denovchek said.

Senior Carol Dulin said she would tune in if there are discussions over current events and university issues such as tuition. Otherwise she said would not normally listen to it.

"I only use the Internet for research," she said, adding that she does know people who do listen to online radio.

Recent surveys showed that students are interested in listening to an Internet radio station on campus. Two hundred student surveys on the subject were returned to SGA last semester.

The station will get its music from Broadcast Music

Incorporated (BMI) and American Society of Composers and Authors Publishers (ASCAP). Because the university is allowed to use the songs, it is unnecessary to report which songs were played at what time, McGovern said.

Combined, BMI and ASCAP will provide more than one million songs.

He added that the main goal of the radio station is to branch out on its own and eventually become separate from SGA. He also said he hopes to have an FM station in the future.

YSU already has its own FM station, WYSU-FM. However, mostly classical and folk music, as well as national news is provided.

McGovern said he does not see any conflict between the new station and WYSU, stating the Internet station would have a different audience than WYSU.

Applications for employment at the wYre will be available in the SGA office. Any student can apply.

MAYSOON ABDELRAJUL | 330-941-1913

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E-MAIL US:
thejambor@hotmail.com

the redlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ Poetry, art and music festival Sept. 7

The Youngstown State University student group ADESINA and The Penguin Review will be sponsoring an event featuring poetry, art and music.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, the group will provide an

open session for reading and performance from 8 to 10 p.m. in the second floor lounge of Bliss Hall. Refreshments will follow.

▶ 2004 Tailgating passes still available

Tailgate passes for the M-26 tailgate lot are still available. The cost is \$15.

The M-26 lot is located at the corner of Lincoln and Fifth Avenues. For information, contact the

Youngstown State University Athletic office at (330) 941-1978.

▶ Chef's Secrets series sponsored by Sojourner House

The Sojourner House Domestic Violence Program will be sponsoring Chef's Secrets, a series of cooking classes, Sunday, Sept. 12.

The program, which will be held at Stambaugh

Auditorium, will feature 16 area chefs who will provide classes in appetizers, side dishes, entrees and desserts to area residents. Each class will last 30 minutes and the cost for the evening is \$50. There will also be a Chinese auction, a 50-50 raffle and a gas grille raffle.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. For tickets, contact Sandy Kessler at (330) 743-9275.

Weather >> Mostly Sunny

82 | 61

the jambor poll question
Is the Praxis policy of the College of Education fair?
vote online
www.thejambor.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

► Butler Institute to feature artwork of actress Jane Seymour

The Butler Institute of American Art will be featuring the work Golden Globe and Emmy award winner Jane Seymour from Sept. 5 through Oct. 3.

On Oct. 2, Seymour will be the featured guest at the museum's 85th anniversary gala. Seymour, whose works are mostly done in pastel and oil mediums, has paintings and drawings in galleries and museums nationwide.

Selected works by Seymour will be available for purchase and some of the proceeds will be donated to the Butler Institute.

Butler members and their guests are required to make advance reservations to attend the event.

For more information call 330-743-1107 ext. 123.

► YSU to sponsor tent at Canfield Fair

Youngstown State University will be sponsoring a tent outside of the Canfield Fair Grandstand.

During the week of the fair, which began Wednesday, YSU will be featuring a different college each day and selling Penguin Parade merchandise. Raffle tickets will also be available for the penguins.

The Rayen College of Engineering and Technology will also be featuring student projects such as Robots, a mini-baja car, a concrete canoe, a super-mileage car and a human powered car in the fair's technology building.

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[9:55] (Fri-Sun) | [4:35] (Mon-Thur)

Jeff Bridges in THE DOOR IN THE FLOOR (R)

[2:05] (Sat-Mon) | [7:10] | [9:40] (Fri-Sun)

FAHRENHEIT 9/11 (TV) [4:25]

Kevin Kline in DELOVELLY (PG13) [2:00] (Sat-Mon) | [4:35] | [7:20]

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YSU budget crunch puts squeeze on special events

SHANNON DILLINGHAM
CHRISTINA POE
The Jambar

Tight university budgeting is putting the squeeze on entertainment and special events for Youngstown State University students this semester.

The office of Student Activities has completed its 2004 fall semester calendar of activities, but working with a small budget will keep big events from taking place on campus.

Director of Office of Student Diversity William Blake said on a campus the size of YSU it is hard to bring major acts to perform because of the lack of funds they are given to work with.

In past semesters, students saw acts such as 3 Doors Down and guests from the reality show The Real World come to campus but Blake said those special events are few and far between because they usually cost a minimum of \$5,000.

Blake, who was formerly the director of student activities, said the \$26,000 budget for 32 weeks of programming makes it difficult and sometimes impossible to secure big

name acts to YSU.

Blake said he works with acts that carry a high cost to wait until they are passing through the Youngstown area or performing in other locations in the evenings and books them for a noon show at Peaberry's Café in Kilcawley Center.

Blake said most of the acts cost anywhere from \$1,000-\$2,500 but sometimes he can find local artists that cost only around \$150-\$200 for an hour-long performance.

"It can be a very difficult budget to work with, but we make it work for our campus," said Blake.

Blake said the Peaberry's location for most acts is also a cost issue because of the need for security.

"We have held programs in the evening where security cost is many times higher than the cost of the program, consequently many student groups choose to program off campus," Blake said.

In the past, the Student Programming Board has been successful in securing multiple events, particularly in the evening.

Tony Spano, former

president of SPB and current part-time faculty member, said the organization receives their money from the SGA's financial appropriations process.

Spano said the process is time consuming and puts a hold on any future events SPB tries to plan. The organization receives no funding from the university, attributing it to the fact that the funds are simply not there.

"There is no funding for anything," Spano said. "There is very little money available for any student programs."

Spano mentioned a resolution SPB drafted two years ago that he said would add a considerable amount of funding for events.

Spano said the resolution suggested adding \$3 to fall and spring tuition for each student that would go into a fund specifically for student programming.

While the resolution made it to the YSU Board of Trustees, he said he has not heard anything more about the idea.

SHANNON DILLINGHAM | 330-941-1913

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

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NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

STUDENT ID#: _____

PHONE #:(s): _____

Good Luck!

www.ysu.edu/studgov Call (330) 941-3591 with questions

SGA

FROM PAGE 1

as well as representatives of student governments from other northeast Ohio colleges and universities.

Although State Senator Kevin Coughlin has confirmed his participation in the summit, Holt said some details were still vague because certain issues, such as the event's duration, were not yet worked out.

Vice President of Financial Affairs Bob McGovern gave a report to the body concerning the progress of the wYre Internet radio station.

McGovern said students can expect the station to be up and running in the next few weeks.

McGovern added that President Angela Mavrikis informed the body that meetings were set up with administrators to discuss allowing SGA mass e-mailing, which would allow the organization to communicate with the entire student body through YSU Cue-mail accounts.

"We want to be able to directly tell students about our events and what goes on in the meetings since we do represent them," Mavrikis said.

Holt also mentioned SGA's tailgating activities for YSU's first football game against Slippery Rock tonight.

CHRISTINA POE | 330-941-3523

POLICE REPORTS

• A man was begging for money from a YSU student on Lincoln Avenue in front of Williamson Hall on Aug. 26 police said. The suspect Gregory Bankston was positively identified by the victim Aaron Title police said. Bankston persisted asking Title for a dollar the police report stated. Police issued Bankston with a minor misdemeanor.

• A police officer stopped and warned a man playing loud vulgar music leaving the M-1 deck on Wick the police report stated. Lidel Hilson was driving a red Cadillac when the officer stopped him on Aug 26, and Hilson could not hear the officer from six feet away the police report stated. Hilson cursed the police officer loudly in front of other students the report stated.

• A recycling bin was reported destroyed on Aug. 30 between Cushwa and Moser Hall the police report stated. Director of Recycling Jim Petuch said in the police report the recycling bin was deliberately broken.

• A window exploded at Christman Dining on Aug. 29 a police report said. A glass sneeze-guard was shattered but no one was hurt police said. The unit was shut down while the mess was cleaned up the police report stated.

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: Kathrynpcm@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: Kathrynpcm@aol.com

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

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JAMBAR ADVERTISING MANAGER

opinion

- an editorial -

SGA focus must extend beyond professionalism

In their first general meeting of the academic year, the Student Government Association has already begun to prove that they are going to see through the promises made in last year's election.

Monday evening, SGA officials addressed such issues as voter awareness, computer literacy and communication with the student body. They also addressed the fruition of the long-awaited student run Internet radio station. The body seems motivated, aware and eager to address student needs.

It is imperative now that the members of SGA continue to follow through on their plans for these issues in order to prove their seriousness regarding their positions.

SGA Vice President J.T Holt discussed plans for the upcoming Northeast Ohio and University Summit. This program is intended to bring together state and local political leaders as well as student leaders from other Northeast Ohio universities. Open to all YSU students, its focus is on creating voter awareness and education on the issues.

Participation in and organization of this event is to be applauded. In an election year with so many issues at stake, it is important that young voters become educated and aware of the issues. Moreover, it is imperative that they interact with the political leaders of our area in order to voice their needs.

We support the efforts that Holt and other members of SGA have taken to make an event such as this possible.

The members of SGA also addressed the upcoming launch of the student-run Internet radio station, wYre. After three years of deliberation, SGA finally has passed a motion to begin it. The dedication to the project, and the initiative to provide an area that allows students creativity and expression is commendable. It is now necessary that those involved remain consistent in their work and strive to maintain the station.

The initiative set by SGA President Angela Mavrikis to begin mass e-mailing the student body through the CUE-mail system is another idea that proves the willingness of the body to better communicate with students. We hope the administration works with students to allow this to happen.

As we all know, communication is key to understanding how the students are being represented and what students need.

The actions and plans set forth by the first general meeting give us hope that SGA will represent the collective voice of the students. It is important to recognize that the execution of these plans dictates how seriously students will take SGA as a group of student leaders.

In years past, students had grown disillusioned with the manner in which SGA handled university issues and student needs. However, faith was reinstated through the leadership of former SGA President Emily Eckman and Vice President Adam Vukovic. Why? The pair remained focused on and dedicated to the issues.

We see the same potential in Mavrikis and Holt. In fact, this duo may even surpass the leadership skills of their predecessors. Over the next few months, we will continue to maintain a watchful eye and look forward to seeing a better working relationship between SGA and the students of YSU.

The Jambor editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambor 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 Jambor 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 Jambor staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Penguin theft article childish

Editor -

This letter is in response to an article written in the Aug. 26, 2004, issue of the Jambor. The article I am speaking of was entitled "Pilfered Penguin: Waddle We Do" and it was written by Maysoon Abdelrasul and Daniel Griesemer. I found this article to be ridiculous and stupid. To report a theft in this manner was absurd. The manner in which this story was reported is the same as what I would expect an elementary school teacher to tell a youngster that their possessions have been stolen out of their locker. We are not elementary students. We are college students and we deserve to be treated as such. If the Jambor has to report the news in a fashion suitable to elementary children, then maybe they should relocate to an elementary school and we COLLEGE STUDENTS can create a newspaper suitable for college readers.

-Joseph J. Poschner

EDITORIAL CARTOON

STAR TRIBUNE
SAC

Sec. Rumsfeld,
I've JUST READ the
ABU GHRAIB REPORTS.

~~YOU'RE FIRED!~~

~~YOU'RE SUSPENDED.~~

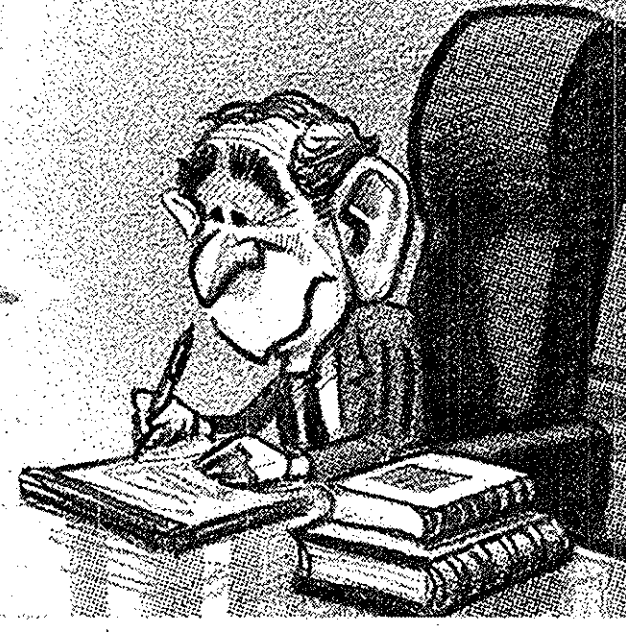
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~~A NOTE IN YOUR FILE.~~

~~NO TV FOR YOU
TONIGHT, YOUNG MAN~~

HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY
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Best W.



- a commentary -

The war that isn't really a war

DANIEL GRIESEMER | The Jambor

President George W. Bush finally got it right, if only for a few minutes.

When asked about the war on terrorism during an interview on the "Today" show Monday, Bush said: "I don't think you can win it. But I think you can create conditions so that those who use terror as a tool are less acceptable in parts of the world."

You could almost hear the collective groan coming from the president's campaign team as soon as the comment left his lips. The statement seemed a glaring contradiction to the image of an optimistic and unwavering leader the Bush-Cheney Camp is trying to present to the voters. Furthermore, polling reveals that "terrorism" is one of the few policy areas in which Bush holds a substantial lead over opponent John Kerry in the eyes of the public. Any sizeable shift in Bush's platform on this issue could greatly diminish or completely eliminate the treasured lead the president possesses.

The Bush campaign quickly went in to damage control mode following Monday's interview, and within a few hours the president was easing back from his statements. During a phone interview on the Rush Limbaugh radio show, Bush stated that he should have been more articulate in expressing what he really meant, and that the war on terrorism is a "different kind of war," in which the faceless enemy can never sit at a peace table and say, "I quit."

These remarks were merely a prelude to the full turnaround Bush made Tuesday at the 86th annual convention of the American Legion. "Make no mistake about it: We are winning and we will win," Bush recanted. "We will win by staying on the offensive. We will win by spreading liberty. We believe that liberty can transform nations from tyranny into peaceful nations."

This reversal was exactly the ammunition the Kerry campaign was looking for to turn the tables on the president after enduring a relentless attack on Kerry's war record. The Kerry-Edwards team wasted no time in publishing a press release that echoed a previous Republican attack on the Massachusetts senator - "Bush: Against Winning the War on Terror Before He Was for It." The flip-flop, John Edwards later commented,

sent the wrong message to the American people, the world and especially to the terrorists.

The irony in all of this is that Bush was dead on the money with his comments to Matt Lauer on the "Today" show. We cannot win a war on terror that does not exist. The armed forces of the United States cannot go to battle against a noun or a concept.

We may be pursuing military action against specific terrorist cells, but to call this haphazard collection of actions a "war" is a complete bastardization of the term in every sense.

"We cannot win a war that does not exist. The armed forces... cannot go to battle against a noun or a concept."

Both candidates shot themselves in the foot by committing to the fundamentally flawed concept of a "war on terrorism," and now that most Americans believe we are truly engaged in a war, Bush and Kerry are caught in an impossible catch-22. The word "war" carries with it a list of expected outcomes voters will expect their commander in chief to eventually produce. But there will be no V-day for the American people. There will be no treaty signed between the United States of America and a non-existent leader of international terrorist operations. The very "liberty" that Bush hopes to spread throughout the globe creates the opportunity for people to exercise their free will and carry out terrorist acts.

How soon we forget that terrorism does always not equate to al-Qaeda. Timothy McVeigh - not al-Qaeda. Terry Nichols - not al-Qaeda. Ted Kaczynski - not al-Qaeda. Not all threats to American liberty are of foreign origin - at times it is American citizens who threaten their own liberty. We cannot go to war against ourselves, and we will not sacrifice the funda-

mental freedoms that create the opportunities for terrorist acts to take place. Democracy and freedom inherently creates vulnerability. We have to live with that.

To be blunt, if you truly believe that either candidate is going to be able to live up to their promise to win the war on terror, you have fallen for a preposterous lie. You should be ashamed of the candidates for making such a promise and you should be ashamed of yourself for being ignorant enough to believe it.

Terrorism is a powerful tactic that has been utilized since the dawn of organized government to create fear and instability. We cannot invent terrorism. It will always remain an ace in the hand for extremist groups who wish to yield power.

This is not to say that we should not continue fighting terrorism. Certainly domestic security should remain a high priority and the U.S. should continue in its attempts to disarm terrorist organizations that threaten harm against American citizens.

What is needed, however, is for both candidates to fess up to the truth. Bush's verbal gaff, a brief moment of authenticity, should clue the American public into the reality that the election year hype over terrorism is not all its cracked up to be. Fear motivates voters, and both candidates are pounding away at the terrorism drum in an attempt to lure undecided voters into their camp. In reality, both are adding fuel to the fire that will ultimately burn them. Whether Bush is held accountable in this election, or Kerry in the next, voters will eventually realize that even the President of the United States is not in a powerful enough position to defeat an indefinable enemy.

The "war on terrorism" charade needs to be canned, and Americans need to be presented with a realistic projection of how the fight against terrorism will progress. Yes, there will be isolated victories in which terrorist attacks will be averted. But capturing Osama bin Laden will not end the conflict. Establishing democracy in Iraq will not end the conflict. The volume and intensity of attempted and successful terrorist attacks may grow and shrink over time, but will never disappear.

DANIEL GRIESEMER | 330-941-1807

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PRAXIS

FROM PAGE 1

taken or passed the Praxis examination series will be required to take the applicable Praxis examinations to their subject area by 2005. Once this deadline has passed, districts will be required to send a letter to the parents of all students whose teachers have not received the "highly qualified" distinction through passing the Praxis exams. Parents will then have the option of removing their children from these classrooms.

"Since student teachers are in the classrooms for half of a year," noted Ginnetti, "the faculty felt that these students needed to be 'highly qualified' as well before they entered the classroom." Ginnetti said after the faculty of the Beeghly College of Education voted in favor of the policy, the opinions of local school district superintendents were sought out — all of them supported the policy.

Ginnetti also said the new policy has helped students recognize the importance of preparing for and passing the Praxis exams.

"Until this policy was put into place, many students were not taking the tests as seriously as they should have and were going into the examinations under prepared," said Ginnetti.

YSU is one of a handful of state institutions in Ohio that mandates all sections of the Praxis be passed before a person can student teach.

Locally, Cleveland State University is the only state institution that enforces the same policy. Kent State University does not require students to pass either section of the Praxis examination before student teaching or earning a degree in education.

The University of Akron requires that the content area of the Praxis II examination be passed before students may student teach, but has established an appeals process for cases in which special circumstances may warrant admission of non-passing students to the student teaching program.

Dota said a similar appeals process would be beneficial to the Beeghly College of Education.

"This black and white mentality is not acceptable," said Dota. "There should be exceptions made. The test should not be the only method of determining who is fit to teach."

Dota also said she believes mandating the passage of both sections of the Praxis before students can student teach is an unfair addition to the curriculum requirements if the College of Education is not doing its part to prepare students for the Praxis examinations.

"If [the College of Education is] going to say that students must pass both sections before they are allowed to student teach, YSU needs to implement specific courses designed to prepare students for the Praxis and help them pass this test," she said.

Dota noted she has spent over \$800 on registration, processing and score reporting fees with the Educational Testing Service, the corporation that creates and administers the exam. Dota said she was not sure how many more times she could afford such costs.

"It blows my mind

"Quiz show tactics to determine what a teacher candidate knows are incredibly inadequate and can never do the job."

—Hugh McCracken
Professor Emeritus

how much money I've spent on an examination that everyone told me I'd have no problems with, and that we're not even sure is valid," she said.

Dota is not alone in questioning the validity of the Praxis II examinations. Hugh McCracken, professor emeritus in the English department at YSU, served as the project director for a study that assessed the validity of the Praxis II exam series in the area of language arts. The study was conducted by a joint committee of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and compared the content and structure present in the Praxis examination to a set of 63 standards cre-

ated by the NCTE and sanctioned by NCATE as the criteria for evaluating how programs prepare teachers of English language arts.

According to the final report of the committee, released in December of 2000, none of the Praxis examinations in English language arts satisfied the

minimal criteria for content knowledge standards. Consequently, the committee declared that the Praxis II examinations in English language arts could not be endorsed as a "major indicator of candidate performance."

The committee pointed to deficiencies in author diversity as being one of many areas in which the tests fall short. The study reported that Caucasian authors wrote 83 percent of the literature present on the examinations, and males wrote almost 70 percent. The study further reported that only 16 percent of the literature on the test was written by authors who distinctively wrote for young adults.

McCracken said that the bigger question at the

root of this debate is whether or not a standardized test can ascertain what a prospective teacher knows through 120 multiple-choice questions.

"Quiz show tactics to determine what a teacher candidate knows are incredibly inadequate and can never do the job," said McCracken. "The reason states choose multiple choice tests is because they're cheap to have scored. It has more to do with finances than anything."

McCracken said he submitted a letter stating the findings of the committee and his concerns as to the validity of the Praxis II English language arts examinations, along with a copy of the report, to Ginnetti last year.

Ginnetti said he received the letter from McCracken, but did not receive a copy of the report. Though Ginnetti stated he is interested in reading the report, the Beeghly College of Education is not in a position to react or respond to the report's findings because it is the State Board of Education that mandates the ETS exams be used.

Ginnetti will be meeting today at YSU with deans from colleges of education across the state. Among the topics discussed will be the ETS and the Praxis examination series.

"We have been monitoring the situation with the ETS closely," said Ginnetti. "We are concerned about this, and we are talking about it."

Ginnetti recommends

students invest in Praxis study guides and attend the free Praxis preparation seminars available through the Beeghly College of Education.

Dota said she feels study guides and seminars are insufficient to prepare students for the Praxis examinations. Students need to be better educated in preparation for the questions on the exam and exposed to timed practice tests, she affirmed, along with better support for students who may be struggling to pass.

She said, "There needs to be a support system put in place, a way for students to get help and have people there to tell them, 'Here's what you can do now. Here are your options. We haven't washed our hands of you. We're not going to leave you on your own.'"

Though Dota is continuing to explore her options, she said that at times it's hard for her to keep hope.

"It's scary. I planned and planned, but now I feel like I'm running around in circles, and I don't know what to do," she said. "It's frustrating because the test has no bearing on how much I love literature, or how much I want to be a teacher or how qualified I really am to teach my students."

Dota returned to the words of Hughes to express her emotions. "What happens to a dream deferred? ... Maybe it just sags like a heavy load," she said with a sigh.

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sports

YSU faces first test against SRU Heacock says the opener will be a chance to 'see where we're at'

DANIEL GRIESEMER | The Jambor

Tonight the speculation ends and the Penguins will get their first chance to show what kind of power they're packing for the 2004 season.

Youngstown State will host Slippery Rock University in its season opener. YSU holds a perfect 8-0 record against the Rockets, but Head Coach Jon Heacock said at a Tuesday press conference that the contest should be a good test for some of the newer members of the squad.

"They say, 'You can't win the championship in the summer, but you can lose it,' and that's absolutely true," Heacock commented. "We had a fall camp. I wouldn't say we had a great fall camp, but we had a good one. This will be our first chance to see what we've really got."

Among those under Heacock's watchful eye will be redshirt freshman quarterback Tom Zetts, who played in last year's opener but was unable to play for the rest of the season due to a broken collarbone. Heacock said that though Zetts is relatively untested, he displays all of the characteristics a coach hopes to see in a quarterback.

"He's a leader on and off the field, he's enthusiastic, he's in the office all the time watching game footage— he does all of the things you expect a quarterback to do, among which is that he makes good decisions," Heacock said.

Senior wide receiver Phil Larmon said he agrees that Zetts is the man for the job this season. "He came in very humble,

eager to learn and excited to be a part of something great," Larmon said.

The Penguin defense, acknowledged by Heacock and players alike as a weakness last season, will be another area under close scrutiny. Dana Chambers and Mike Kolakowski will be teaming up as co-defensive coordinators. Chambers, formerly the defensive coordinator at Division II Upper Iowa, will also work with the defensive line while Kolakowski of Cincinnati will work with the secondary.

Along with a few new defensive strategies, team captain Yancey Marcum said that the most important change in the defense for this season involves their mindset. "I think it's our attitude — we're over on the sidelines juiced," commented Marcum. "We may not be the biggest defense in the conference, but we bring intensity."

Tonight will mark the ninth meeting between YSU and SRU. In the previous eight meetings between the teams, the Penguins have averaged 36 points per game while the Rockets have averaged 11.9. YSU defeated Slippery Rock 45-12 the last time the two teams met. Heacock enters his fourth season with a record of 20-14. The Penguins have not lost a season opener since 1995.

Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Stadium.



Chuck Rogers | The Jambor

Head Football Coach Jon Heacock describes his team's strengths during Tuesday's press conference.

- a commentary -

2004 Olympic games disappointing... again

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | The Jambor

For 14 days the world sat in awe as Bob Costas invaded our NBC affiliate networks.

If you haven't heard, the 2004 Olympics wrapped up their two-week yawn fest Sunday night with the closing ceremonies.

Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy the summer games.

Wait. Let me rephrase that.

Every four years I get excited to watch the Olympics, hoping that they will be better than the last, and like clockwork, every four years I am disappointed.

It's not that I don't appreciate the feel good stories, like the Iraq soccer team who surprised everyone and nearly won bronze, or Michael Phelps who reeled in eight medals and could have made it nine but decided to let his teammate replace him on a relay that later set a world record. Don't get me wrong, that is what the Olympics are about.

The aspect of the Olympics that leaves me stumped is how some of these "sports" get put on the billing. After taking a glance at the Olympic lineup, there are at most five or six events in which people would have any interest viewing.

Imagine the Olympics like a fifth grade birthday party. All your friends, track and field, baseball, soccer, basketball, swimming, wrestling and even your buddy gymnastics show up. Then to your surprise, the guys you really didn't know very well or

"For instance, did you know that Birgit Fischer won gold in kayaking? No? Me neither. I doubt she did either until they told her kayaking was an Olympic sport."

didn't even know existed, like table tennis, handball, and badminton, all arrive. Once you see them, your only response is, "Who let you in?"

For instance, did you know that Birgit Fischer won gold in kayaking? No? Me neither. I doubt she did either until they told her kayaking was an Olympic sport. Maybe it's

just my American egocentric way of thinking.

Overall, team USA did well for itself, raking in 103 medals, 35 of which were gold. Included in the winners were some surprising newcomers such as Justin Gatlin who ran the 100-meter dash, Joanna Hayes who ran the 100-meter hurdles and also set an Olympic record and Carly Patterson who won gold in women's artistic gymnastics and will inevitably be on every talk show and Wheaties box within the month.

Admittedly, the 2004 Summer Olympics went surprisingly well. Greece proved to be an excellent host and welcomed back the games that they created. Despite an undercurrent of terror, the games went on. Most importantly, it gave everyone who watched the games, or the highlights, something to talk about for two weeks. For example, it isn't everyday you see a crazed priest nearly tackle a marathon runner, or a guy in a polka dotted tutu sneaking past the best security in the world to jump off the high dive during synchronized diving.

So to the Olympics I say, "So long. See you in Beijing in 2008 and shut the door on your way out."

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | 330-941-1811



Nhat Meyer | KRT Campus

USA's Alison Bartosik and Anna Kozlova perform their routine for the Synchronized Swimming Duet at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in the 2004 Olympic Games on Wednesday, Aug. 25. They placed third. The Olympians competed in a mostly empty auditorium. Apparently the Greeks care for synchronized swimming about as much as Americans do.



Chuck Rogers | The Jambor

YSU receives new scoreboard

Beede Field at Stambaugh Stadium has a brand new scoreboard.

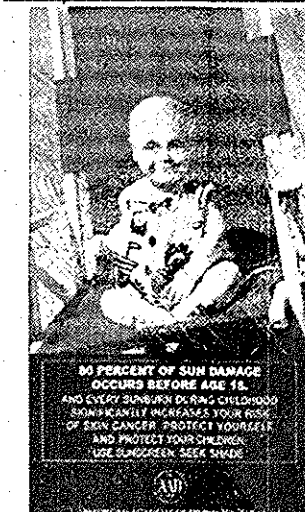
The scoreboard, at the north end of the stadium, was installed Tuesday.

Additionally, a Mitsubishi Diamond Vision video replay board will be

installed in time for the Sept. 25 Penguins' home game against Liberty University.

"This new scoreboard and videoboard is a project we are all excited about," said Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics.

"It will just enhance the game-day atmosphere for our players, fans and alumni and also cement Stambaugh Stadium as one of the premier Division I-AA football venues."

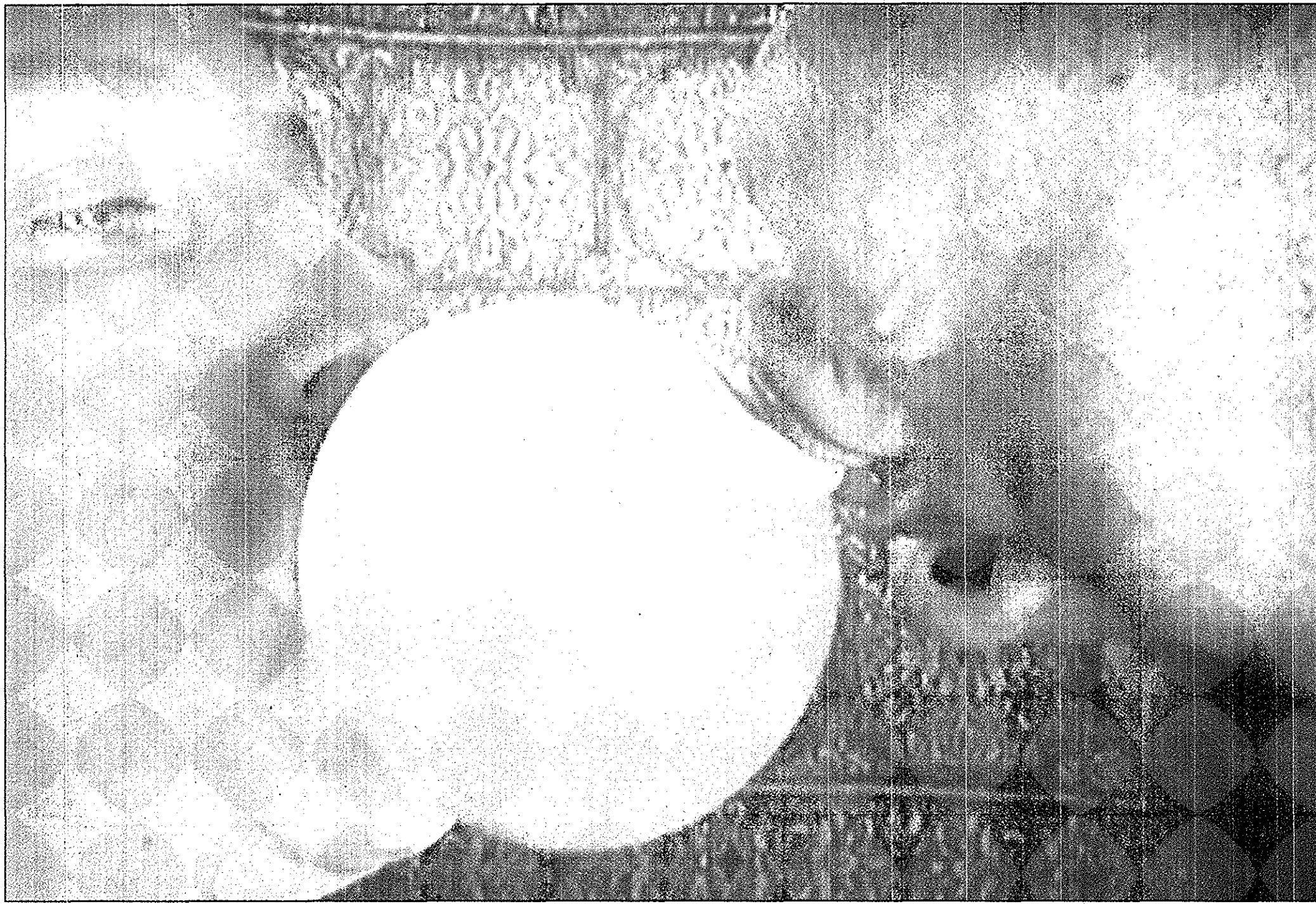


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entertainment



▲ A man and woman share chewing-gum bubbles in one part of "Air Hunger," a video installation by Mary Magsamen and Stephen Hillerbrand currently exhibited at the Butler Institute of American Art.

"Air Hunger" more than just blowing bubbles

The exhibit explores themes of communication, trust & sexuality.

BILL RODGERS | The Jambar

As you round the corner in the Butler Art Museum, walking past the standard paintings and sculptures, you begin to notice a strange noise in the air.

It sounds like a really loud chewing noise. The longer you listen, the more disturbing it sounds.

Entering the dark room, you encounter that inexplicable sound, as well as a recording of deep breathing. Meanwhile, a six-foot projection of two people blowing bubbles of gum, four inches away from one another's face stretches across the wall.

It is strange, yet oddly mesmerizing.

The piece is a video installation art exhibit titled "Air-Hunger" by the husband-and-wife team of Mary Magsamen and Stephen Hillerbrand. "Air-Hunger" is showing at the Butler Art Museum through Sept. 26.

In an installation exhibit, the audience is immersed in the artwork surrounding them.

"Air-Hunger" employs various forms of media. Pictures, video and sound are all part of the artwork. The videos are shown in small rooms, so that the audience is enclosed by the

work.

Magsamen said each video uses the idea of "Air-Hunger" as a theme. Air-hunger (scientifically called Kussmaul Breathing) is a medical condition where someone in a diabetic coma undergoes deep, labored breathing.

"With the air-hunger idea, we thought it would be an interesting visual to show Stephan and I sharing air through bubbles of a sugary substance like bubble gum," said Magsamen.

She said the piece explores communication, trust, sexuality and relationships through the metaphor of blowing bubbles of gum.

The part of the work that draws the most attention is the dual projection on the wall facing the door. In this video, Magsamen and Hillerbrand face each other, blowing bubbles that occasionally join to form one bubble. The video ends with the two biting at the same piece of gum.

In the adjacent projection of the same piece is a video of

Magsamen and Hillerbrand by themselves, blowing bubbles at the camera in turn. As one finishes their bubble, the video distorts to show the other blowing another bubble at the camera.

"We morph in and out of each other," said Magsamen. "As the video goes on, you see our identities being obscured."

"I thought it was pretty creative. I didn't know you could say that much with gum."

— Sam Berresford

Another piece titled "Gum Traveling" was the video that started the series. It shows a piece of gum stuck to a car window with traffic moving behind it. Magsamen had thrown a piece of gum out of the car when it became stuck to the window. Hillerbrand decided the piece resembled a reclining nude present in many pieces of artwork and decided to film it.

Another of the videos was

filmed inside of a white-tiled bathroom. In this video, Hillerbrand and Magsamen blow bubbles at the camera. The audience can see the bathroom reflected in the surface of the bubble. As the bubble enlarges, the reflection becomes distorted, then is destroyed as the bubble pops.

Senior Sam Berresford saw the exhibit on Tuesday.

"I thought it was pretty creative," said Berresford. "I didn't know you could say that much with gum."

The last video in the exhibit is titled "Earth Hunger" [also called "The Great Race"]. The video shows the two artists running in a hazy cornfield, trying to find each other.

The artists said the piece drew its inspiration from the recent trend of reality television, where no-name people compete in pointless competitions.

Magsamen said the video also deals with fear, loneliness and security. The artists are shown with confused, scared expressions on their faces. At

one point in the video, the audience sees Magsamen silently screaming for Hillerbrand.

Magsamen discussed her and her husband's method of shooting the videos.

"We do everything ourselves, and everything's shot with the same camera. We work with a lot of technology but do so on a very basic, low-tech level," said Magsamen.

Magsamen pointed out that all of the videos' effects were created in the same video-editing program.

YSU senior Marcia Hunsicker saw the exhibit as part of an art class. Hunsicker said her favorite part of the show were the digital photographs, some of which featured pictures that appeared to be taken from inside the bubbles.

"Some of the show was confusing," Hunsicker said. "I could tell there was a message they were trying to convey, but it just seemed gross on the whole."

Some of the videos in the exhibit can be seen online at the artists' web site www.lemonsquared.com.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758

Salem based "The Breezeway" excels at upbeat, fun music

BILL RODGERS | The Jambar

Fans of the Pittsburgh-based rock band The Clarks may find they'll also like the local group The Breezeway.

Founded in Salem, The Breezeway have been playing together since 1996. They have since played for Jerry Springer when he stopped by Salem as part of his Senate campaign and they have done extensive touring of the local club scene.

The band's fourth studio CD, "The Red LP" was released in early August. It features 13 new songs by the band, all of which are all-around great rock 'n' roll songs.

The music itself is the strongest selling point of the CD. While the vocals and lyrics may be shaky at times, the music

is consistently great. The Breezeway excels at upbeat, fun songs, but they don't offer listeners any nasty surprises when they decide to tackle slower, more emotional songs.

Stylistically, The Breezeway sound much like The Clarks.

The songs on this CD cover a wide-range of topics, never pinning the band down to just one theme.

The CD begins with "My Cage," a standard song about rough times in life and how they can be overcome. The song starts slow and then picks up the tempo with the guitars.

"I was once suicidal but now I see / I was locked in a cage / but now I'm free," the band's vocalist Roy Henceroth sings.

One of the better songs on the album, "The DUI Song"

offers listeners another perspective on someone who has made some serious mistakes in their life.

"The DUI Song" is about a person who has ruined his life when he was caught driving drunk: All of the man's friends left him and he's stuck with a bad job in a crummy downtown apartment.

The song then moves to some interesting themes of forgiveness and hope as Henceroth sings the chorus, "I believe a better life out there exists / I believe that you are beautiful inside."

Keeping up with the drinking theme, "Drink Me A Beer" is probably the strongest song on the CD. As the title suggests, "Drink Me A Beer" is a cut-and-dry drinking song that The Breezeway pulls off flawlessly.

It's a song that's great for singing along. Henceroth's voice has a bit of swagger to it as he sings about drinking Pabst Blue Ribbons, meeting a girl at the bar, "raising hell" and waking up the next morning in jail.

"The Red LP" does have its weak points, most of which lie in the lyrics. At times, it seems like Henceroth is trying to force a rhyme out of his lyrics. It carries through to the listener and can sound pretty awful. Otherwise excellent songs on the CD are often marred in this way.

For example, in "Senile Serenity" the majority of the song is amazing, but it begins with the lines: "Take my hand / Lead me to some kind of magic land / Some place beyond the clouds and stars / On the other side of Mars." These lyrics, cou-

pled with the dead-serious way Henceroth sings them, sound ridiculous. It's the biggest strike against an otherwise great CD.

The Breezeway also sets a standard for themselves within the CD that they have a hard time achieving with every song. Songs like "Drunk Cupid" and "The DUI Song" are so good they make other songs on the CD sound mediocre by comparison. Songs like "Okay" are just that. OK.

On the whole, though, The Breezeway has released a great set of songs with "The Red LP." It's the kind of CD that makes you want to turn up the volume and rock out.

For CDs and concert information on The Breezeway, go to www.thebreezewayonline.com.

BILL RODGERS | 330-941-3758