

# the jambar

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**SAY IT AIN'T SO!**

◀ Brad and Jen called it quits, and that's just one sign of the impending apocalypse on Earth. See page 8.



**PENGUINS STRUGGLE**

The YSU men's and women's basketball teams struggled over break. See page 4. ▶

VOLUME 74, ISSUE 39

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**the jambar**

Also Inside



▲ SoCal pop-punkers Unwritten Law gear up for new album. See page 8.

**News Briefs**

**RecycleMania set for Jan. 30**

RecycleMania 2005 begins Jan. 30. YSU is one of 49 universities and colleges participating in a national contest to determine who can recycle the most. For more information visit [www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org) or contact Jim Penuch at (330) 941-2294

**Chinese New Year Celebration**

The Chinese New Year Celebration will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30 in the Chestnut Room. Tickets are \$15 for members of the Chinese Association of Greater Youngstown, \$18 for non-members, \$12 for college students and children between the ages of 11-17, \$9 for 6 to 10-year olds and children under five are \$3. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. For more information contact Qi Jiang at 330-941-2731.

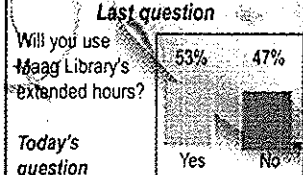
**Diversity Week slated for Jan. 24-28**

Diversity Week in Youngstown State University Residence Halls will be held Jan. 24-28. Christmas Dining Hall hosts "Kick off Diversity Week" on Monday. Other events include a diversity dance on Wednesday in the Ohio Room, a talent show in Cafaro House on Thursday and the festival of foods will be held Friday in Cafaro House.

Weather >> Mostly cloudy

24 | 10

**the jambar poll question**



Today's question: Have you visited Federal Plaza since its recent renovation?

vote online [www.thejambar.com](http://www.thejambar.com)

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## BAGHDAD, Iraq

# Charges dropped for YSU soldier

The charges were dismissed without prejudice, but the Army still may reinstate them at a later time

By Christina Poe  
The Jambar

A Youngstown State University alumnus who was facing charges of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit murder is in the clear — for now.

According to a press release issued by United States Command Central, charges against Second Lieutenant Erick Anderson, 25, of Twinsburg, were dismissed while officials continue to investigate.

Anderson serves in Company C, First Battalion,

41st Infantry Regiment of Fort Riley, Kan.

Anderson and two other soldiers were charged following their alleged involvement in the death of an Iraqi teenager in November.

According to various news reports citing eyewitnesses, Anderson allegedly ordered two of his men to shoot the badly burned Iraqi to spare him a painful death.

Lieutenant Colonel James Hutton, a division public affairs officer of the First Cavalry Division in Baghdad, said the allegations were dropped in

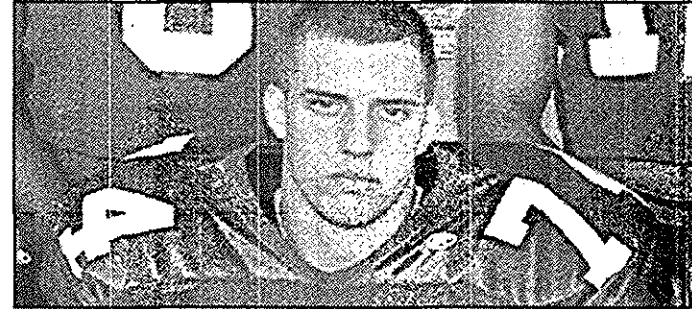
order to "conduct further investigation into his alleged involvement in additional misconduct."

Hutton could not elaborate on the details of the investigation, but added Anderson could still face the dismissed allegations at a later date.

"These charges were dismissed without prejudice, meaning that the Army can reinstate these charges at a later date," Hutton said.

Lieutenant Colonel Roderick Hosler, assistant professor of military science, said

please see **CHARGES**, Page 2



### Clear — for now

Second Lieutenant Erick Anderson, pictured in this YSU football file photo in 1997, had been charged with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit murder. The charges, however, have currently been dropped pending further investigation. (Photo courtesy Sports Information)

WASHINGTON

## Bush relishes history on eve of inauguration

Says a presidential inauguration is a "testament to the power of democracy."

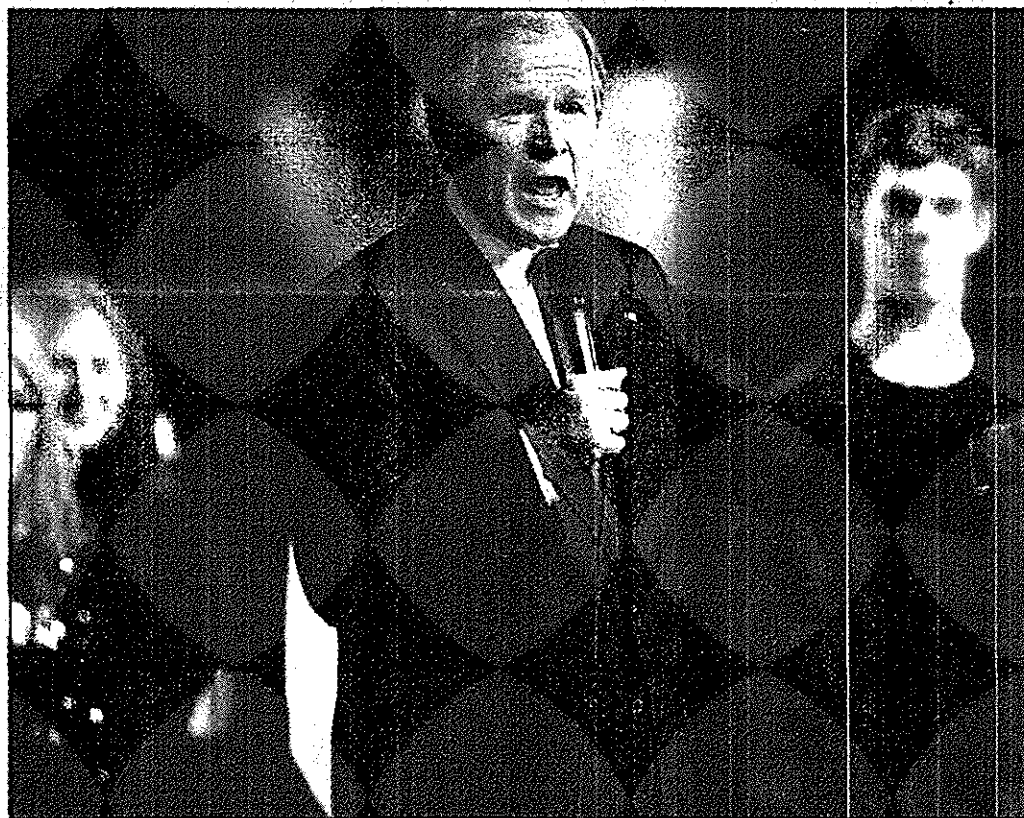
Scott Lindlaw  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Relishing history as he awaited his second oath-taking, President Bush paused amid celebratory galas Wednesday to contemplate America's most treasured historical documents, including George Washington's inaugural speech.

Asked whether he was feeling the history of the moment, Bush said "Absolutely." He and Laura Bush studied original versions of the Declaration of Independence so faded that most signatures were illegible; the Constitution; the Bill of Rights; and Washington's address and Bible.

The sense of history was palpable in the dimly lit, dome-shaped room. A portrait of the Founding Fathers gazed down on the president, his wife and their entourage.

Top presidential adviser please see **BUSH**, Page 5



### Presidential address

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George W. Bush speaks to the crowd at the "America's Future Rocks Today" concert at the D.C. Armory on Tuesday. (KRT Campus)

## Atwater steps down as provost

Bege Bowers will serve as interim provost until Fall

Maysoon Abdelrasul  
The Jambar

The man who University President David Sweet said "significantly advanced the campus objectives of enrollment, diversity and partnerships" is moving on.

Tony Atwater will step down as Youngstown State University provost, in order to accept the position of president at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Atwater was selected by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors to be IUP's new president. He was chosen from a nationwide search of 70 candidates.

He will serve as chief executive officer and oversee please see **ATWATER**, Page 2

## YSU will borrow funds to finish center

By Leonard Crist  
The Jambar

The new \$12.1 million student recreation center currently under construction on campus, hailed by Youngstown State University officials as totally funded by private donations, has "borrowed" \$4.2 million from the university to finish construction.

The university has received \$12.1 million in pledges to build the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, but YSU will not receive the money from some of those pledges until after construction is completed, YSU's Vice President for Administration John Habat said.

Habat said administrative officials have known about the "funding gap" for a while, but did not think there was a reason to talk publicly about it. He said it is only an issue of timing.

"That's what the funding gap is. It's the time between when the money is needed and

"That's what the funding gap is. It's the time between when the money is needed and time during which it is paid."



John Habat, vice president for administration

time during which it is paid," Habat said.

That gap amounts to \$4.2 million, which the university is set to receive between the end of fiscal year 2005 and 2012, Habat said. YSU's Board of Trustees authorized the \$4.2 million transfer of funds at a December meeting.

Because some of the money is not coming for several years please see **FUNDS**, Page 6

## Businesses pleased with revamped Plaza

By Chuck Rogers  
The Jambar

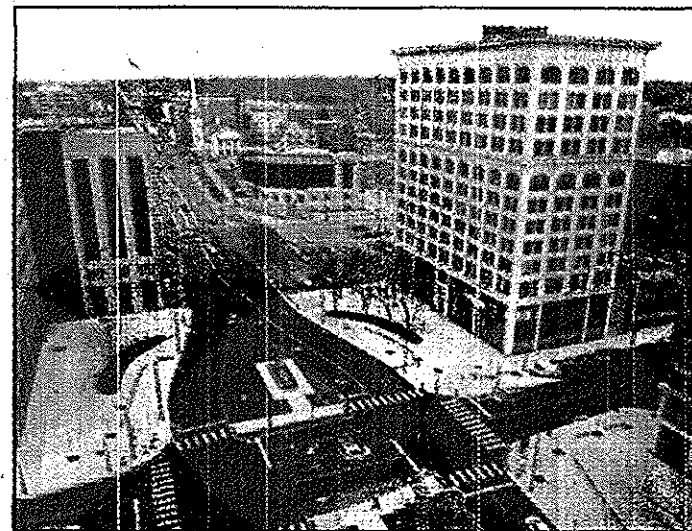
Larry Silver said he knew 31 years ago closing Federal Street to car traffic was a bad idea. Recently the city of Youngstown came to the same conclusion.

Workers spent months removing the brick walkways and unused fountains that occupied the first blocks east and west of Market Street. The newly-repaved Federal Street was opened to through traffic Dec. 7 for the first time since 1973.

Now downtown business owners like Silver hope the change in the traffic pattern will cause an increase in traffic through their stores.

Barry Silver, who owns Silver's Vogue Shop along with his father, Larry, said he thinks that will happen. The men's clothing store has been a fixture on Federal Plaza West since 1971.

"People bring people," Barry Silver said, citing the improved access to stores and the expected growth in down-



### New look

The newly-opened Federal Street (lower left to right) allows traffic to flow east and west through the downtown district and provides additional parking spaces. YSU campus can be seen at the upper left corner. A larger photo of the Plaza appears on page 6. (Jambar photo by Chuck Rogers)

town jobs. He said he expects business to turn around when summer brings more pedestrians to the area.

Jason Logero, owner of The Bean Counter Café on Federal Plaza East, said he has already seen a difference.

"From that afternoon [of the reopening] on," he said, "there has been a nice, steady increase in business."

Logero said initially he was one of the reopening project's please see **PLAZA**, Page 6

## Youngstown 2010 will 'Unveil the Plan' Jan. 27

By B.J. Lisko  
The Jambar

Anthony Kobak has a vision for the future of Youngstown.

The chief planner for Youngstown 2010 says there is work to be done in making the Mahoning Valley a better place, but it is not unattainable.

"If you establish that you're trying to give good outreach and are genuine about your message, you'll get people to put their guard down," Kobak said. "They've been taken advantage of so many times."

On Jan. 27, Youngstown 2010 will hold "Unveiling the Plan," at Stambaugh Auditorium. The organization has held meetings over the past two years to give area residents a forum to voice their comments, concerns and hopes for the future of the city. The event later this month will culminate those ideas in a draft of the organization's plan for Youngstown.

"We're going to highlight some of the main goals in the plan that night," Kobak said.

"We will also unveil a future land use map. It's a general foundation for the city to plan by in the future."

Apathy runs rampant in the Mahoning Valley, but Kobak says Youngstown 2010 has had little problem combating it.

"The attitude in the community is definitely changing, so I think that was an old obstacle," Kobak said.

But even with area apathy well in hand, Kobak admits there have been other obstacles to overcome.

"The biggest obstacle now is planning and a planning process," Kobak said. "It's kind of foreign to this area because it hasn't been done for so many years. It hasn't happened in a generation or more. It's probably been 50 plus years since a real plan has been around."

A major key to the success of Youngstown 2010 is keeping area residents and businesses from relocating.

"We have to work on the assets that we have in the city," Kobak said.

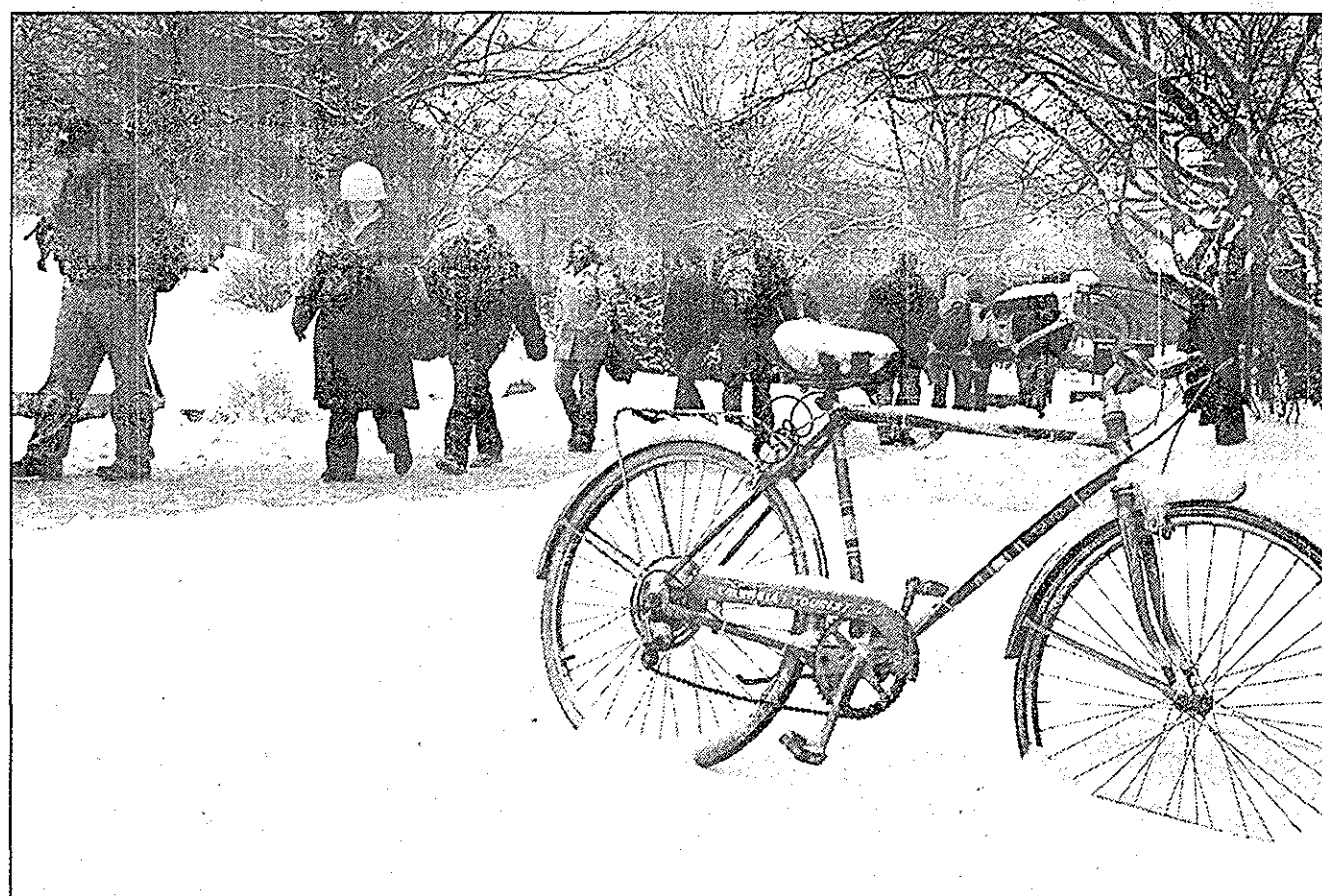
"The wonderful art community, Mill Creek Park and businesses big and small — we have to make sure that they don't leave. We have to patronize them and give them a reason to stay. We have to build on what we have with making the city and neighborhood a cleaner and more presentable place."

Ultimately time will tell if Youngstown 2010 can turn around the fortunes of the city. Kobak thinks it can be done, and he is looking for as much support as he can get.

"Youngstown 2010 is only going to succeed if everyone supports the plan and gets involved," he said.

"Unveiling the Plan," is set for 7 p.m., Jan. 27 at Stambaugh Auditorium.

For more information on the event or Youngstown 2010, residents can visit the organization's Web site at [www.youngstown2010.com](http://www.youngstown2010.com).



### Winter wonderland

Wednesday's cold weather and slippery streets did not close YSU. Students bundled up against the near-zero wind chill passed by this reminder of warmer weather — a snow-covered bicycle parked near Cushman Hall. (Jambar photo by Chuck Rogers)

### POLICE BLOTTER

A Youngstown State University police officer was called to 850 Pennsylvania Ave. on Jan. 8 in reference to a female subject who drank too much of an unknown alcoholic beverage and became intoxicated. The mother of the woman, who had also been drinking, threatened to harm her daughter according to the police report. The mother hit her daughter's car and told her to never come home

again. Police left a message at the mother's house to call YSUDP.

A woman approached a YSU police cruiser on Jan. 14 stating that her ex-boyfriend was in her apartment carrying a knife. The police officer and the woman went to the apartment and found no one. Police advised the woman to call if he returns.

### CHARGES, continued from page 1

military protocol in the situation of a gravely wounded civilian calls for the involvement of a military medical officer.

However, Hosler added small groups of soldiers usually do not have a resident medic with them, which can create a "tough decision" for the leading officers.

Hosler said the officer must not only think about the pain of the wounded, but also the lives of the soldiers and other civilians in the area.

A fatally wounded person could cry out loud enough to alert enemies and the officer must decide if a "mercy killing" is necessary to save lives.

If the charges are reinstated and he is convicted, Anderson could face the maximum sentence of the death penalty.

Hosler said the possibility of this sentence is very remote due to the fact that President Bush must sign any uniform code of military justice.

Anderson played football at YSU as a defensive lineman in 1997 and 1998 and graduated from the university in 2001 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Mechanical engineering professor Shawn Kim said he taught Anderson in a few classes and noticed that Anderson possessed a natural leadership quality and a "high moral value."

"Academically, he was an average student, but he was also a very pleasant person,"

Kim said. "I don't doubt his integrity."

Kim said Anderson told him he wanted to go to law school and was surprised when Anderson approached Kim after his graduation with plans on attending Officer Candidacy School.

Call Christina Poe at (330) 941-1913

### ATWATER, continued from page 1

student and academic affairs, advancement and administrative initiatives. The president's annual salary at IUP is approximately \$215,000. His current position at YSU pays close to \$148,000.

With 14,000 students and six academic colleges, Atwater said he will have many more responsibilities than he does as provost, but said he believes his experience at YSU will help him excel.

"In terms of my experiences, they have been very positive," he said. "I show no dissatisfaction with YSU or the community."

In a memo to the university community, YSU President David Sweet wrote "the academic division has significantly advanced the campus objectives of enrollment, diversity and partnerships" under Atwater's leadership.

Atwater's final day at YSU is Jan. 28. Bege Bowers, assistant provost for academic programs and planning at YSU, will take over as interim provost until Fall 2005.

The interim provost announcement was made public Friday by Sweet.

Bowers said she is honored to serve as interim, adding that she is looking forward to taking on its responsibilities.

However, Bowers also said she hopes to serve as interim for just a short time because she is committed to her job as assistant provost.

Sweet said he has "the utmost confidence" in Bowers, who will take on the new responsibilities as provost alongside her current ones.

A permanent appointment for provost will be made in Fall 2005, Sweet said.

He said he hopes to launch the search in February.

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The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. The first copy of The Jambar is free; each additional copy is five cents. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

### OUR SIDE

## YSU switching stories on center

As YSU prepares to cut the ribbon for the opening of the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center, officials are finding the financial funding for the rec center tied up in red tape.

Since its conception, we have been constantly reminded and reassured, all money used for the construction of the recreation and wellness center would be privately donated. This meant that YSU would not have to tap into its own funds for the building's completion. The university would only fund operating costs.

Now, we are being told another story.

In December, the YSU Board of Trustees approved the use of \$4.2 million of the university's money to complete construction of the wellness center. This is supposed to fill a "funding gap" for private funds that will not arrive until construction is completed. If the funds arrive at all.

Frankly, the news is unnerving.

Yes, the university is riding high off the news that its external auditors have given YSU a clean bill of financial health and has also scored a near perfect mark on Ohio's yearly assessment of its state universities' financial status.

This does not mean, however, that YSU and its administration are free to go throwing money around while it waits for a refund check. Should the donations fall through, the university's financial situation will deflate, leaving us and other students seeing red. It is not a risk we are willing to take, given the shaky ground the state budget already sits upon and the fact that Ohio officials have already warned of tight 2005 budget.

Administrators, such as University Vice President John Habat, have said this good news could quickly turn bad if enrollment numbers dip, or if there are further state budget cuts for the university.

He did reassure a Jambar reporter, however, the university could use its reserve funds in case of an emergency.

Yet, the university is now shifting funds left and right to cover shortages here and future donations there. Habat said in this kind of situation "you've got to juggle." Eventually something will drop.

Instead of exploring other options that could save the university money (even at the expense of delaying the center's opening), YSU has left us with only the hope the donations will eventually come through and YSU will not lose any more funding.

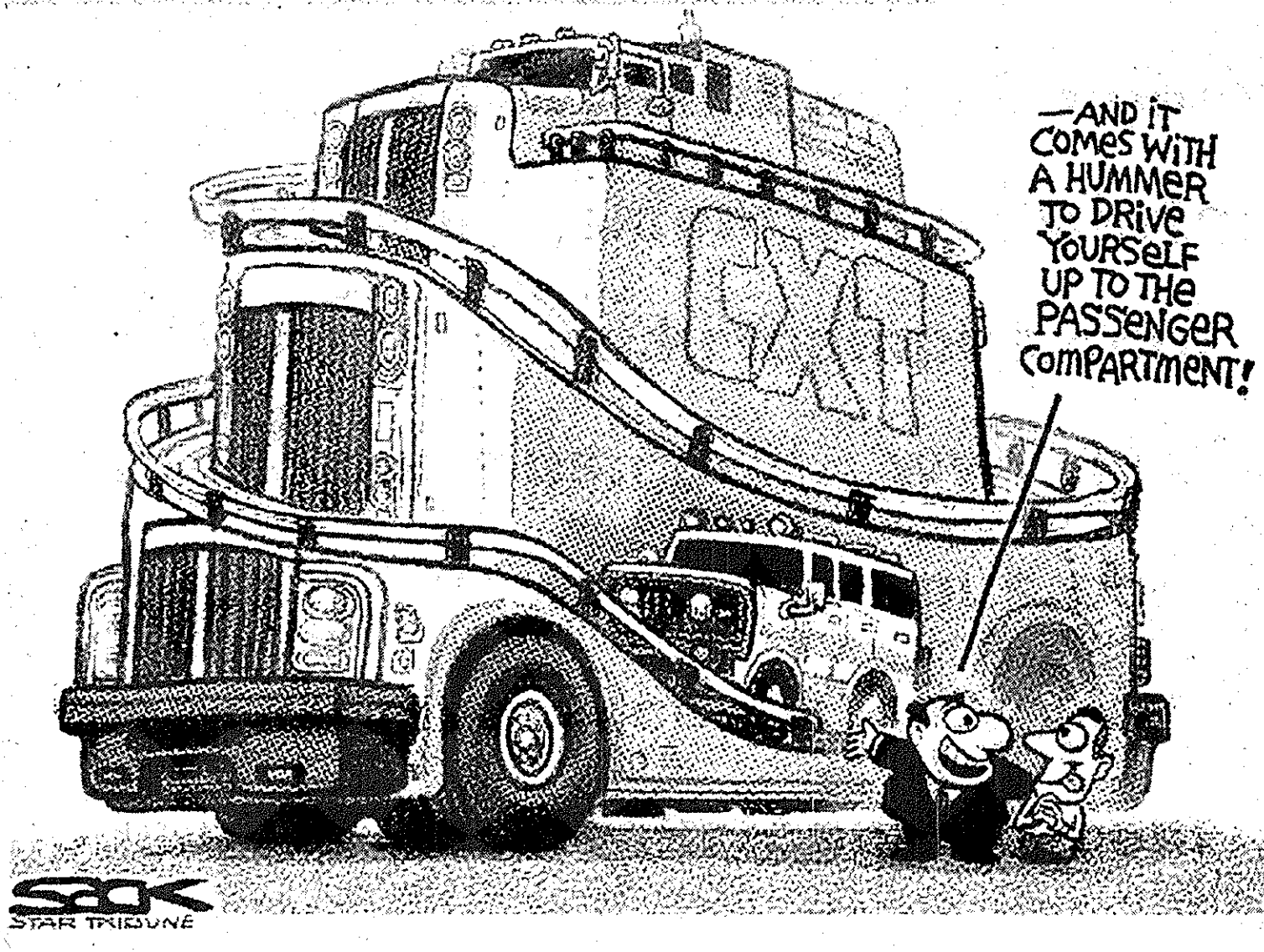
Yes, the rec center must be completed to attain the funds, but what if something does drop? What if the contributors do not follow through with all of their funding? What's more important, the university's "wellness" as a whole, or one single building?

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.

## WORLD'S LARGEST S.U.V. NOW ON SALE...



Leonard Crist...



declares total thermo-nuclear war...

## This week, on procrastination

Incontrovertible evidence. Not only does YSU have the cheapest tuition in Ohio it also offers the best winter vacation package. TAKE THAT KENT STATE TRUMBULL! (For the record, I haven't bothered to find out what tuition at Kent State Trumbull is or how long their break was).

But the point of this column isn't to boast about how awesome YSU is for giving us five weeks of winter vacation. This column, instead, is a cautionary tale.

The lesson to be learned?

When you have five weeks to finish an incomplete in Russian, don't wait until five days before school resumes to start learning how to conjugate Russian verbs because you spent your entire vacation consuming alcoholic beverages, reading Hunter S. Thompson books and listening to Coast to Coast AM with Art Bell.

Sure, I could take the high road and assume responsibility for my failings, but it's so much easier to pass the buck, and I blame YSU.

Incompletes, when granted, can be a godsend. But I am a chronic procrastinator. For alcoholics, a person who offers them a beer is an enabler; for procrastina-

tors, a university that offers them six weeks of unstructured free time is the enabler.

As textbooks remain unproductively unopened, days begin to blur into each other, and faster than you can say, "Barry Bonds is a 'roid raging disgrace to Major League Baseball," it's Martin Luther King Day and you have four days left to learn two-thirds of a semester's worth of Russian. Eff!

To reach a more precise understanding of how all this happened, let's go back to the last time I did something constructive: finals week, fall semester 2004.

After staying awake for the previous 36 hours in a more-or-less successful effort to finish the majority of my schoolwork before last-day-of-the-semester-Friday at 4 p.m., I received a call at the Jambar from somebody important in the foreign languages department.

"I don't think we're going to be able to give you this incomplete," he said. "You didn't even show up for the final."

[Ellipses in the next paragraph indicate hemming, hawing and other sundry excuse making.]  
"That's 'cause I didn't know

what was on the final ... I fell so far behind ... that's why I requested the incomplete ... don't wanna fail ... if you just give me 'til the end of break ... know I can learn it all!"

"Ok," he relented. "But you have until the first week of spring semester to complete the course."

It seemed feasible at the time. Break started and days passed. My two mantras were "I'll have plenty of time" and "I'll start tomorrow." Unfortunately for my grade point average, tomorrow never came.

Instead of studying Russian, I reorganized my bookshelves using a bastardized version of the Dewey decimal system. Instead of learning the verbs in unit 3 of Nachalo, my Russian textbook, I spent many inebriated nights at my favorite Youngstown dive, the Nyabinghi.

Even now, as I type this on the first day of the semester, my Russian book is sitting in the same exact place it was at the end of last semester.

I fear I may have adult attention deficit disorder.

And needless to say, I'll be taking Spanish next fall.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Retired faculty member upset with YSU's statements

As a retired member of the YSU faculty and one-time president of the YSU-OEA, I am less than delighted by the university's public statements about the limited-service faculty "problem."

In the 1970s it was common for YSU to employ limited-service faculty to teach full-time loads (and sometimes overloads) at part-time pay.

The YSU-OEA objected to the practice and quietly undertook a campaign to secure collective-bargaining rights for part-timers. The YSU response was to impose a blanket 2-class limitation on all limited service teachers. YSU-OEA certainly wasn't happy about this, but was unable to do anything about it, although in some cases the disappearance of limited service teachers pushed full-service faculty into overloads, which were compensated, thanks to collective bargaining.

Now I see that the university's current president suggests the re-creation of a second-class-citizenship status for some faculty, citing cheapness as the goal of the policy.

No employment security, no fringe benefits, ineligibility for union membership. Sounds like the old YSU shuffle. I hope and trust that YSU-OEA can prevent it from happening.

David J. Robinson

Professor Emeritus,  
Communication

#### Problems with part-time faculty

Vanna White strolls across the stage and turns a letter when a contestant guesses it correctly on a popular game show. Ms. White gives no depth to the actual word the letter is a part of; she simply presents the letter. In some instances, all that some of the part-time and full-time faculty at the university do is turn the letter. They provide no substance or depth, they just turn the letter and I assume that we students are supposed to supply that catchy little four-note jingle that follows. This is not to accuse every part-time faculty member, and definitely not every full-time faculty, of such antics. The university needs to be made aware that these people exist.

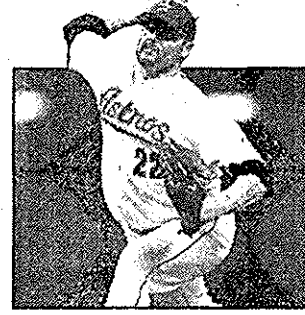
As an education major, several of my instructors have emphasized repeatedly that we, as future teachers, must always present information in ways that engage the students even if it is the most boring and mundane. That boring and mundane information may be part of a larger, more engaging picture, but the point is that all such pieces of information must be well put together to draw the students' interest. It would seem that certain university instructors are exempt from that rule. Or it may be they have forgotten it, possibly even chose to simply disregard

it. We, as paying students of this institution, deserve more than Vanna White.

It has been my misfortune to have more than one of this style of instructor, and other students I have queried indicate they have also had Vanna White. It is not my desire to offend any professor of quality, full or part-time. Professors of quality are known; students tell one another who to take and who to avoid at all cost. The university is at odds as to a solution for the problem, other than to not offer renewal of a part-time or limited service contract, which leads to yet more holes that need filled. The issue of sufficient and quality of staffing must be paramount, as well as an ongoing headache for the human resources department. If there is a way to create a more thorough screening process by which Vanna White could be prevented from entering the classroom, I am sure that I do not possess the experience to provide it. This is why there are more experienced and competent people than I that hire. One definite solution is to pay careful attention to surveys about teachers.

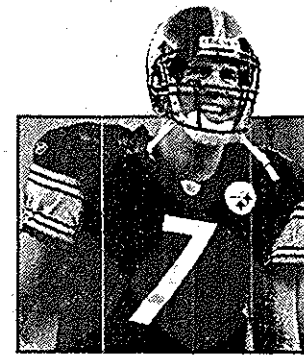
One student complaining may just be upset over a class. One classroom of students that complain, with those complaints being in the same vein, may be upset over quality.

Joan M. Izzo  
Education



HEADLINES

◀ **Clemens seeks \$22 million**  
Roger Clemens filed for a record \$22 million in salary arbitration on Tuesday.  
▶ **Steelers gearing up for Pats**  
The Steelers are ready for the AFC Championship game, set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday in Pittsburgh.



SCOREBOARD

▶ **Women's Basketball**  
Penguins 97, IPFW, 73  
(Tuesday)  
▶ **Men's Basketball**  
Penguins 59, IPFW, 79  
(Saturday)

Thursday, January 20, 2005

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@hotmail.com/330-941-3758

Page 4

Sportswire

**Penguins Fall to Akron in Spring Opener**

Youngstown — The Youngstown State swimming and diving team was defeated by the Akron Zips 193.50-106.50 in the opener of the Penguins' spring portion of the schedule.

Three Penguins picked up individual victories as Becky Bertuzzi won the 200-yard freestyle (2:02.11), Brittany Senn won the 50 free (25.51) and Kalya Leveto won 1-meter diving (271.20). Senn added a second-place finish in the 100 free (55.66) while Leveto placed second in the 3-meter board (236.02).

**53 student-athletes named to league honor roll**

Indianapolis — Youngstown State student-athletes were well represented on the Horizon League's 2004 Fall Academic Honor Roll squad which was released on Friday. YSU had 53 student-athletes named to the team trailing only Butler (75), UW-Milwaukee (70) and Wright State (61).

Here is a list of YSU's student-athletes who were recognized:

**2004 Horizon Fall Academic Honor Roll**

- Gina Abruzzo, Women's Golf
- Becky Bertuzzi, Swimming & Diving
- Danielle Blogg, Swimming & Diving
- Megan Blazek, Swimming & Diving
- Brian Boone, Baseball
- Brandon Caipen, Baseball
- Erin Carter, Swimming & Diving
- Billy Clapper, Men's Basketball
- Carmen DiPenti, Men's Golf
- Jeff Dolphin, Men's Golf
- Crystal Duncan, Volleyball
- Jordan Dunn, Swimming & Diving
- Abby Eitenhofer, Volleyball
- Barb Fabianova, Women's Basketball
- Tara Fleming, Women's Basketball
- Kristy Gaudiose, Women's Basketball
- Matt Gnacinski, Baseball
- Lindsey Hill, Women's Track & Field
- Chris Hine, Men's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Nkechi Hooper, Women's Track & Field
- Leslie Johnson, Women's Track & Field
- Catherine Krupko, Women's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Hannah Lawther, Soccer
- Maddie Lawther, Soccer
- Cari Leslie, Volleyball
- Kalya Leveto, Swimming & Diving
- Kevin Libeg, Baseball
- Katie Malys, Swimming & Diving
- Erin Mazzanti, Swimming & Diving
- Dave Mesly, Men's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Brian Meek, Men's Tennis
- Kelly Murphy, Softball
- Nicole Muzechuk, Women's Tennis
- Karen Najbert, Women's Tennis
- Josh Page, Baseball
- Larissa Papch, Women's Track & Field
- Angie Pasquini, Volleyball
- Maura Patton, Soccer
- Gina Peretti, Women's Tennis
- Jen Perugini, Women's Basketball
- Jeremy Riehm, Men's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Ashlee Russo, Women's Basketball
- Emily Schnitkey, Women's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Bonnie Sherman, Women's Golf
- Nick Smith, Men's Cross Country/Track & Field
- Jeff Solt, Baseball
- Melissa Tarrant, Women's Basketball
- Mike Turjanica, Baseball
- Jessica Yarter, Soccer
- Andrew Weizer, Men's Track & Field
- Josh Wells, Baseball
- Katie Williams, Women's Track & Field
- Josh Zarenga, Men's Golf

Source: ysu.edu/sports

YOUNGSTOWN

Offensive struggles result in YSU loss

With the loss, YSU dropped to 3-12

By Justin Smolkovich  
The Jambar

The 2004-05 season has not been forgiving for the Youngstown State University men's basketball team. With a meager 3-11 record, the team fell to the Panthers of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Panthers jumped out early to a 7-0 lead before the Penguins found an answer behind a Khari McQueen foul shot. The Penguins cut the deficit to only four following a jumper by Jon Mends, cutting the score to 3-7 in favor of the Panthers.

That was as close as the Penguins got as they struggled to muster anything offensively challenging against the perennial Horizon League power. The Panthers took charge and at the half the Penguins were down 18-41.

"It was a bad first half," head coach John Robic said following the game. "It was a combination of them being very good and us not very good."

The Penguins shot only 7 of 22 from the field in the first half compared to 14 of 31 from the Panthers.

After halftime the Panthers juggernaut would continue to roll as they went to work on the offensive end, this time shooting 10 of 22 from the field compared to just 8 of 23 from the Penguins.

The Panthers used a fast paced game to jump on the Penguins as their relentless tempo led to 12 unanswered fast break points against YSU.

"It was a combination of them being very good, and us not very good."

John Robic, YSU men's head coach

UW-Milwaukee would also use strong low post play to add 14 points from the paint to just eight from the Penguins in the second half, leaving Beeghly Center with a final score 65-42 in favor of the Panthers.

The Penguins also experienced a set back when senior Brian Radakovich went down with an apparent ankle injury.

"He came down on someone's foot and sprained it pretty good. If he is hurt, he is really hurt," Robic said of the forward's injury.

YSU, who falls to 3-12 on the season and 1-5 in Horizon League play have left Robic confused at times as to what team will show up.

"We are like Jekyll and Hyde when it comes to practice and games," Robic said.

Despite fighting through tough times as of late, Robic said remaining positive and upbeat are the only avenues he will take with his Penguin squad.

"They are not going to see me disappointed or frustrated," he said. "I'm never, ever, gonna let them see me down."

The Penguins will travel to IPFW and Butler before returning to Beeghly to take on Cleveland State at 7 p.m. Jan. 22.



Tough break

Senior forward Brian Radakovich (50) makes a successful layup shot in Wednesday's game against the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee at Beeghly Center. Radakovich scored a total of 10 game points The Penguins lost to the Panthers 42-65. (Jambar photo by Chuck Rogers)

YOUNGSTOWN

YSU women fall to Phoenix

The Penguins led at halftime behind excellent shooting

By Justin Smolkovich  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University Women's Basketball team took on a top league foe Saturday afternoon, only to meet upset in the second half.

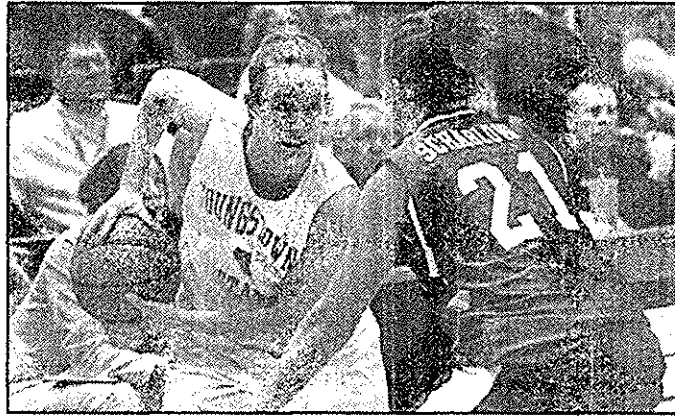
The Penguins played feverishly against University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, nipping at the heels of the Phoenix during Saturday's contest. YSU led at halftime by a score of 23-19 behind outstanding shooting.

At the half, the Penguins were shooting a remarkable 57 percent from 3-point range making 4 of 7 including 3 of 4 from senior Barb Fabianova. The Penguins went 8 of 18 from the field and outshot the Phoenix 44 percent to just 24 percent.

"We've got shooters," Hill said. "That's who we are. They know when they are open they have the green light to shoot."

However, Green Bay answered YSU's prolific first half. Both teams battled in the second half, with neither making many gains over the other, but the Phoenix defense proved to be the difference, forcing 22 turnovers and recording 14 steals.

"We shot the ball well, but we did not take care of the ball well," Hill said of the turnovers.



Freshman guard Lauren Branson (4) protects the ball from Green Bay's Abby Scharlow (21). Branson was responsible for forcing six turnovers and also tallied six points against the Phoenix. (Jambar photo by Chuck Rogers)

Nearing the end of the second half, the Penguins led by as much as four points with just over three minutes to play. Green Bay came storming back, however, knotting the game up for the seventh and final time at 51 with only 40 seconds remaining in the game. After a missed shot by the Penguins, the Phoenix pushed the ball up court and were fouled with only 2 seconds remaining on the clock, putting the Phoenix's best player, Tiffany Mor, at the line. Mor hit both shots and the Phoenix took the lead 53-51.

A desperation shot by Cathy Hanek sailed high ending the game. The Penguins shot 0 for 5 in the last 3:26.

Despite outshooting Green Bay from the field for the game, the Penguins did not

attempt one foul shot in the second half, compared to seven for the Phoenix.

Remaining upbeat, coach Hill said playing against a great team and nearly pulling off the upset showed her a lot.

"If they keep giving that kind of effort, we are going to be in some games. We forced a good team into things they don't normally do," Hill said.

Fabianova, who led the Penguins with 17 points, said she believes the team is very close to turning near wins into wins.

"We should stay confident. When we cut out turnovers, we can win these games easily."

The Penguins will not return to the Beeghly center until Jan. 27 when they host University of Illinois at Chicago.

Conroy steps down as volleyball coach

By Justin Smolkovich  
The Jambar

When the Youngstown State University volleyball team takes the court next fall, this is the perfect time for a move. He added he feels the volleyball program is headed in the right direction.

Joe Conroy, who has recorded a mark of 188-210 while at the helm of the volleyball team, was recently named the Coordinator of Facilities and Programs at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Fortunately for the center, which is slated to open in August 2005, they now have a person in charge that has familiarity with the YSU community.

"I have a lot of experience communicating with the programs here at YSU," Conroy said. "I feel the experience I have as a volleyball coach can help bring those programs together."

That experience will be needed as Conroy now has many responsibilities in running the new facility, including program directing and helping organize and operate intramural sports.

Despite the amount of work required, Conroy remains upbeat about the challenge before him.

"I am excited to be a part of this. I think I am very qualified for this," he said.

While leaving the coaching world behind will be difficult, Conroy said he believes

this is the perfect time for a move. He added he feels the volleyball program is headed in the right direction.

"I have been involved with volleyball for 35 years — 18 coaching here," Conroy said.

"I feel I have done a lot for the program and it is heading in the right direction."

Athletic director Ron Strollo said despite Conroy stepping down as coach, YSU will benefit from adding him to the Andrews staff.

"His commitment to his student-athletes and YSU is unmatched. While he will be sadly missed in athletics, we are pleased that he is remaining at Youngstown State University and happy he has this new opportunity ahead of him," Strollo was quoted in a December press release.

Conroy closes out his tenure as volleyball coach with four 20-win seasons, one conference championship and four conference coach of the year titles.

A national search for Conroy's replacement is underway.



CONROY

## 'Game of Hope' set for Saturday

By Justin Smolkovich  
The Jambar

The stars will be out at Beeghly Center and shining for a worthy cause.

The Phi Kappa Tau fraternity will be playing in its "Game of Hope" charity basketball game against well-known Youngstowners on Saturday.

The "Game of Hope," which benefits the Paul Newman Hole in the Wall Gang, has attracted many local celebrities looking to help raise money for charity.

The game will pit members of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity against the likes of Jerry Mac and Mark Martin of 95.9 Kiss FM and Big 106.1 FM, and even include the Penguins own Athletic Director Ron Strollo.

Tony Spano, chairman of the Game of Hope, said getting people involved was not a problem.

"It's a good cause, most people said yes on the first call," Spano said. "We hope to continue this in the future."

Spano also noted playing in Beeghly before the Penguins men's basketball game makes the game even more exciting for those involved.

Others in attendance or taking part in the Game of Hope include State Senator Marc Dann, general manager of the GM Lordstown complex Maureen Midgley, Mahoning County Treasurer John Reardon and Mahoning County Clerk of Courts Anthony Vivo.

The game is also fortunate, said Spano, to have two of Youngstown State University's biggest names in Penguin's history patrolling the sidelines for the respective teams.

Dom Rosselli, former men's basketball coach who hold the mark for the most wins Penguin's history, along with Ed DiGregorio who holds the same record for the women's teams, have agreed to coach in this game.

"They loved the idea, and they are excited about taking part," Spano said of the Penguin legends.

Spano and all those involved in the first Game of Hope are excited about the outpouring of help and believe this will start a tradition.

"Everyone has been very receptive about this game. The athletic department alone has given us everything from the kitchen sink," he said.

The game tips off at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$6 with \$3 being donated to the Game of Hope philanthropy.

### BUSH, continued from page 1

Karl Rove said Bush was "focused, upbeat, optimistic" about the job at hand: four more years in the Oval Office, starting Thursday, when he will be sworn in anew for a second term.

"Anybody's who concerned with creating a legacy will fall short if he's not focused ... on the right policy and service to the country," Rove told The Associated Press as Bush donned spectacles to view the documents. "And let history take care of itself."

David McCullough, who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of John Adams, suggested to the White House that Bush pay a visit to the historical documents, Rove said.

"He thought it would be a nice act of respect in veneration of the Constitution and the Declaration if the president visited the archives to see the two documents, and perhaps it would become a tradition," Rove said.

Bush is calling for national healing after last year's bitterly divisive election, while devoting parts of his inauguration week to core Republican supporters.

From the National Archives, he made a stop at the "Chairman's Luncheon," the latest thank-you appearance, behind closed doors, with the donors who ponied up millions to finance inaugural festivities. Snow blanketed the streets of Washington as his motorcade made its way through the streets.

Later Wednesday, Bush was making a dash through three "candlelight dinners" with the heaviest donors to the inauguration. All were closed to journalists.

Tickets for the candlelight dinners were distributed to those who chipped in \$250,000 or \$100,000 to the inauguration. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and their wives were attending the candlelight dinners.

Wednesday evening, he was to attend "A Celebration of Freedom," complete with musical



## First Lady

WASHINGTON, D.C. — First Lady Laura Bush speaks with performers during the "America's Future Rocks Today" concert at the D.C. Armory on Tuesday. (KRT Campus)

performances and fireworks, scheduled for dusk on the Ellipse south of the White House. Bush's schedule was ending late Wednesday night with the first of the week's inaugural galas, the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Ball.

During Bush's first-term inaugural week, the festivities were "such a whirlwind we didn't really absorb it," Mrs. Bush said Wednesday. This time, she said, she plans to "make notes every night so I can remember things that happened that day, feelings that I had."

Asked during an appearance on CBS' "The Early Show" whether those notes might be turned into a book one day, Mrs. Bush said, "They might. I hate to act like I'm going to write a book. So far I haven't managed to write

one...maybe I will."

Bush said Tuesday his second inauguration should serve as inspiration to fledgling democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The inauguration of a president is a great moment in the life of our country," Bush said in a speech to thousands of military personnel and supporters at a sports arena.

"With an election behind us, the American people come together in unity to celebrate our freedom," Bush said. "A presidential inauguration is a testament to the power of democracy, a symbol of our confidence in the popular will and a sign of hope for freedom-loving people everywhere."

The inaugural committee raised money from corporations and individuals to finance galas

and other festivities during inauguration week. Through Friday, the committee had collected \$25.5 million toward a goal of \$40 million.

The biggest donors, those donating \$250,000, also got four seats to Bush's swearing-in ceremony; 10 VIP seats at the inaugural parade; and two tickets to an underwriters' luncheon featuring Bush and Cheney.

Unlike Bush's presidential campaign, the inaugural committee could accept unlimited contributions from any source except foreigners, although donations were voluntarily capped at \$250,000. Bush's campaign could only accept limited donations from individuals and political action committees; corporate, union, unlimited and foreign donations were banned.

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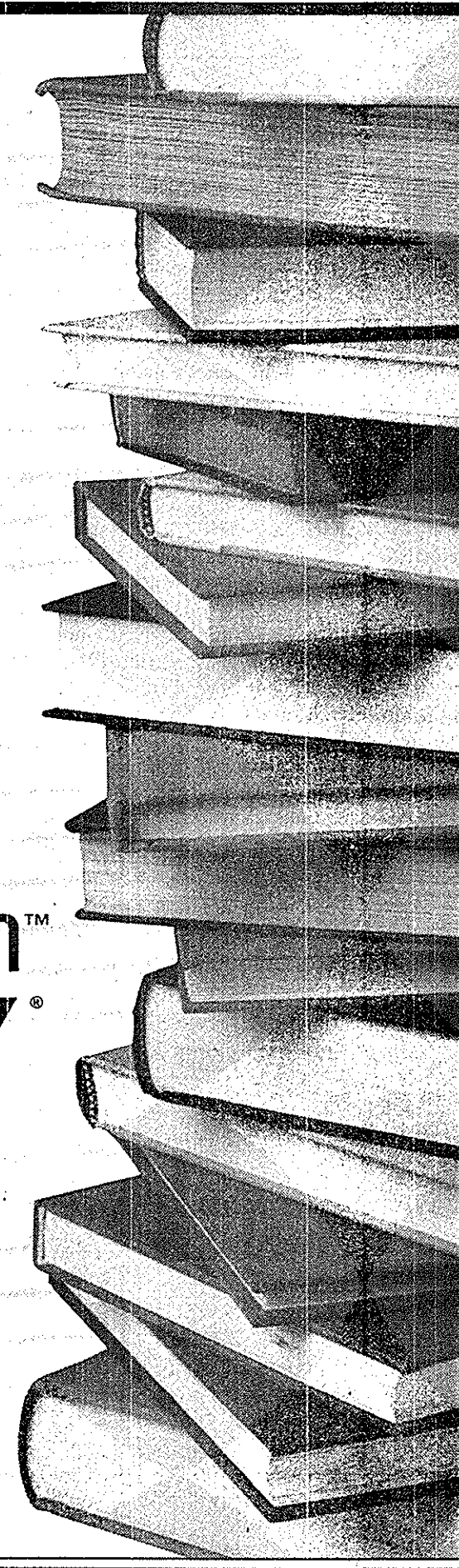
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## PLAZA, continued from page 1

biggest skeptics. But now, he said, he thinks it is the best thing the city has done.

In 2003 he located his coffee house on Federal Plaza because he wanted to put something into downtown. A chef and former Youngstown State University student, he said he wanted to capture a "downtown feel" in his establishment.

"When you think of coffee places," Logero said, "the nice ones are always downtown."

Besides coffee, he sells gourmet sandwiches and beer, and has wireless Internet access for his patrons.

With more customers passing through his doors, Logero is considering expanding his business into a larger space adjoining his current location.

Recently opened businesses along the newly reopened thoroughfare include The Core, The Bad Apple, Geo's, B and B's Unique Ladies Boutique and Howard's.

B and B's and Howard's share the same storefront at the corner of Phelps and Federal Plaza West and are run by the husband and wife team of Bea and Howard Lindsey.

The couple opened the store in September after Howard Lindsey retired from his job as a YSU dormitory maintenance worker. The store combines ladies accessories with a news stand and lunch counter business. Purses and scarves are on one side and hot dogs, nachos, candy bars and newspapers on the other.

Bea Lindsey says she's optimistic about businesses opening in downtown Youngstown. She says a jazz club will open in a bay-windowed building down the street and a spa has recently hung its sign over a vacant storefront on the opposite corner.

"More traffic and infocision coming into the Phar-mor building will generate a lot more traffic for the vendors," she said.

Infocision, an Akron-based telemarketing firm, is considering opening a call center in the Federal Plaza West office building. The center will initially employ 150 people and may eventually double that number.

A new U.S. Courthouse and office building, the Mahoning County Children's Services building and the Youngstown Convocation Center are being constructed in the downtown area as well.

The Federal Street project has also created almost 100 new two-hour parking spaces to help downtown visitors get closer to the shops and businesses.

Almost all were filled before noon Thursday.

As Larry Silver said, "People want to go through town, not around it."



## Aerial view

Pictured is the newly remodeled Federal Plaza downtown. Area businesses say the revamped Plaza is a blessing. (Jambar photo by Chuck Rogers)

## FUNDS, continued from page 1

"you've got to juggle," Habat said. YSU will use \$2 million in state capital improvement funds, \$1.1 million in capital component funds and \$834,000 in additional operating revenue YSU earned due to increased enrollment. The university plans to have money available at the end of the year to take care of the remaining \$266,000, Habat said.

He added that using money available through university channels helps the university avoid taking on a commercial loan, which would charge fees and interest to YSU.

He fully expects the pledges to come through and that the university will be repaid. However, he said there is no absolute guarantee.

"From an accounting standpoint, the further

[pledges] extend, the more you have to discount them," Habat said. "We think we're going to collect. We don't think anyone is going to renege on their pledges, and furthermore, we think people will accelerate their giving."

In anticipation of the potential for uncollectible pledges and the gradual devaluation of the dollar due to inflation, \$480,000 of the \$4.2 million has been earmarked for those potential losses.

But another area YSU may lose out on is interest that would have accrued and provided potential income. Habat said all university money, whether it is for one night or five years, goes into interest bearing accounts.

Habat did not have an estimate on how much money the university would miss out on

by spending the \$4.2 million, but he acknowledged, "obviously you lose a little interest income opportunity."

Dominic Prologo, an investment adviser with QuestarCorp in the Austintown Financial Center, estimated if YSU invested \$4.2 million today in a government fidelity bond fund, which is one of the more conservative investment bonds available, the university might generate roughly \$500,000 in interest income by 2012.

Christine Domhoff, head of YSU-Association of Classified Employees, the staff union, said she wondered if the temporary diversion of \$4.2 million would prevent other projects from being funded. She said this funding gap coupled with the recent announcement that YSU scored high on

a key financial health indicator may factor into contract negotiations later this year. YSU-ACE's contract is set to expire on Aug. 15.

"They're going to certainly be hard pressed to try to tell me that they don't have any money, especially since they were able to come up with \$4 million," Domhoff said.

Student Government President Angela Mavrikis said she felt it is important that construction continue on the project but that it is a "major dilemma" if the university cannot guarantee the money will be repaid.

"I think it's kind of a necessary evil at this point to use our own money to finish the construction, cause boy would we hate to see that construction stop after its been so long in the works," Mavrikis said.

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Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2005-2006 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Renewal FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web and the Institutional Aid Application is **February 15, 2005**.

The following is a list of places, dates, and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 24, 2005	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Kilcawley Center, 1st Floor across from the bank
Tuesday, January 25, 2005	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Kilcawley Center, 1st Floor across from the bank Williamson Hall-Lobby
Wednesday, January 26, 2005	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Kilcawley Center, 1st Floor across from the bank Moser Hall-Lobby
	5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Magg Library-Main Lobby
Thursday, January 27, 2005	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Kilcawley Center, 1st Floor across from the bank DeBartolo Hall, Lobby

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Wed. 1/19/05 @ 4pm  
in the Kilcawley House basement

Thurs. 1/20/05 @ 7pm  
in the Lyden House basement

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# Meeting yields no results

By Elizabeth Tabak  
The Jambor

A meeting Tuesday evening yielded no agreement between The Vindicator's management and members of the Youngstown Newspaper Guild.

Representatives of the Guild met with Vindicator Management to discuss a counter proposal to contract negotiations made on the union's behalf. It discussed healthcare, compromises on cars and overtime pay in the circulation department and some employee wage increases.

Debora Shaulis, vice president of the Guild, said the counter offer was made to "make changes and to save

money" for the company and to enhance wages for lower level employees. Shaulis said the cuts could have saved as much as \$300,000 for the newspaper. However, Vindicator management did not accept the proposal.

"It's very disappointing to us," Shaulis said.

Shaulis said an offer union members made was contributing 15 percent toward monthly healthcare costs under the stipulation the cost is capped at \$1. She explained this was to avoid large increases in costs for both guild members and Vindicator management.

Shaulis also said the Guild offered to eliminate a position in the circulation department known as a "swing person." She said the number of

people who fill the position has dwindled over the past few years, and Guild members were willing to permanently remove it.

"We thought we made an extremely good offer yesterday," Shaulis said. "But we will continue the fight."

Members of the Guild have been on strike since Nov. 17 after their contract expired and were unable to reach a new agreement with management.

Shaulis said neither the cold weather, nor the duration of the strike has affected the morale of the guild members.

"If we're not talking about hardy folks here, then they just don't exist," Shaulis said.

Vindicator General Manager Mark Brown could not be reached for comment.

# YSU in good financial shape

By Christina Poe  
The Jambor

The numbers for fiscal year 2004 have been crunched and the results are in — Youngstown State University is in good financial shape.

YSU has received a score of four out of a possible five on Ohio's financial health indicator Senate Bill 6, and has also been given a positive financial review from the YSU's external auditor Ernst and Young.

Senate Bill 6, passed by the state in 1997, uses factors such as revenues, operating expenses, net assets and long term debt to calculate the financial status of public colleges and universities in Ohio.

Universities with a score of 1.75 or below are placed on fiscal watch.

YSU's score is almost double that of five years ago,

when they received a score of 2.2.

Vice President for Administration John Habat said factors such as YSU's waning dependence on state funding has steadily raised the university's score year after year.

Habat said YSU now relies on state subsidies for only 35 percent of its revenue, as opposed to 50 percent five years ago. Habat added dwindling long-term debt and increased locally generated funds were key in improving the university's financial situation.

"What this means is that we are living within our budget and maintaining our reserve funds," Habat said.

YSU's financial health could quickly change should the state cut more funding or if enrollment at the university

decreased, Habat said.

Habat said this could cause the university to use its reserve funds, five percent of the budget set aside for needs such as construction, if it cannot draw it from the rest of the budget. In a university press release, Habat said a team is working to continue the development positions aimed at better managing audit responsibilities and deadlines.

Eileen Greaf, interim executive director of financial affairs and Jeff Taylor, director of budget planning and resource analysis will lead the team. The vice president added that three full time professional positions and one part time position have also been added to the general accounting department.

Call Christina Poe at (330) 941-1913

LAW continued from page 8

"Get Up," the second track on the demo, has a grungy, Velvet Revolver sound to it. The harsh guitars combined with Russo's singing gives the song a fantastic feel that dies horribly when the band transitions into the song's decidedly poppy chorus. The verses clash too much with the chorus, which confuses the mood of the song.

"Get Up" still has some interesting sounds in it. Most notable is a frantic drum-break that sounds like a throwback to

"The Perfect Drug" by Nine Inch Nails. Beavan's influence, perhaps?

The last song on the demo, "Because of You" is a mid-tempo love song. The slightly distorted guitars and almost subdued overall sound give the song an interesting feel. Russo could have put some more effort into writing the lyrics, though. "Because of you/ My dreams came true" is almost too cheesy to be taken seriously.

If "Here's To The

Morning" was full of the same pop guitar hooks with whiney, nasal, Blink 182-style vocals, it would be the musical equivalent of trying to choke down spoonful after spoonful of sugar.

Instead, the demo CD shows that Unwritten Law may be branching out musically. The demo CD features a lot of sounds that one wouldn't expect to find in a pop-punk recording. It will be interesting to hear what comes out of Unwritten Law in the future.

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

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## Spring 2005 College Success Workshop Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Topic	Location
Wednesday	January 26	12:00 noon	Goal Setting & Decision Making	Rm 2068, KC
Thursday	January 27	10:00 am	Time Management & Procrastination	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	January 31	3:00 pm	Time Management & Procrastination	Rm 2068, KC
Thursday	February 3	2:00 pm	Studying Text	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	February 7	12:00 noon	Undecided? Tips for choosing a major	Rm 1034, JH
Tuesday	February 8	12:00 noon	Taking Charge of Your Job Search	Rm 1034, JH
Wednesday	February 9	12:00 noon	Developing an Effective Resume	Rm 1034, JH
Thursday	February 10	12:00 noon	Effective Interviewing Skills	Rm 1034, JH
Friday	February 11	11:00 am	Exploring Speed Reading	Rm 2068, KC
Tuesday	February 15	12:00 noon	The Messages You Send: Tips on College Etiquette	Rm 2068, KC
Wednesday	February 16	10:00 am	Memory Techniques	Rm 2068, KC
Thursday	February 17	2:00 pm	Note Taking & Mind Mapping	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	February 21	3:00 pm	Introduction to Researching on the Internet*	Wilcox CRC, BCOE
Wednesday	February 23	10:00 am	Note Taking & Mind Mapping	Rm 2068, KC
Friday	February 25	1:00 pm	Learning Styles	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	February 28	3:00 pm	Test Preparation	Rm 2068, KC
Tuesday	March 1	7:00 pm	Test Anxiety & Relaxation	Multipurpose Rm., CH
Wednesday	March 2	11:00 am	Studying Text	Rm 2068, KC
Thursday	March 3	2:00 pm	Money Management	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	March 7	12:00 noon	Effective Interviewing Skills	Rm 1034, JH
Tuesday	March	12:00 noon	Undecided? Tips for Choosing a Major	Rm 1034, JH
Wednesday	March 9	12:00 noon	Taking Charge of Your Job Search	Rm 1034, JH
Thursday	March 10	12:00 noon	Developing an Effective Resume	Rm 1034, JH
Monday	March 21	3:00 pm	Exploring Speed Reading	Rm 2068, KC
Thursday	March 31	12:00 noon	Tips for Advisement & Registration	Rm 2068, KC
Wednesday	April 6	1:00 pm	Healthy Eating	Rm 2068, KC
Tuesday	April 12	11:00 am	Tips for Advisement & Registration	Rm 2068, KC
Monday	April 18	12:00 noon	Developing an Effective Resume	Rm. 1034, JH
Tuesday	April 19	12:00 noon	Effective Interviewing Skills	Rm. 1034, JH
Wednesday	April 20	12:00 noon	Taking Charge of Your Job Search	Rm. 1034, JH
Thursday	April 21	12:00 noon	Undecided? Tips for Choosing a Major	Rm. 1034, JH
Tuesday	April 26	11:00 am	Memory Techniques	Rm. 2068, KC
Monday	May 2	10:00 am	Test Anxiety and Relaxation*	Ohio Rm., KC
Wednesday	May 4	1:00 pm	Test Prep*	Ohio Rm., KC

All workshops are free; no registration is required. Each workshop is approximately 50 minutes long. \*Seating is limited.

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Public Service Announcement



► *Aviator, Sideways* earn Best Picture nods  
 Leonardo DiCaprio also picked up best actor at the 62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards Sunday.

DVD REVIEW

# White Castle

## quest

There's nothing quite like a sack of White Castle, and nothing compliments it better than "Harold and Kumar."

**By Bill Rodgers**  
 The Jambar

It's a situation that has played out for many of us on a Friday night. You're sitting on your couch with your friends, drinking, (or passing around a pipe if you're more liberal with your methods of recreation) and suddenly, a powerful craving, such as you've never known before, hits you. Before you can do anything else that night, you absolutely MUST eat some of the most delicious, awful and artery-clogging fast food imaginable.

Be it McDonald's, Chipotle, Taco Bell or Sheetz MTO, absolutely nothing can rival the feeling of satisfaction you have when you finally sink your teeth into it. You smile, you feel as if the planets have aligned and, if you listen hard enough, you can faintly hear the "Alleluia Chorus" playing somewhere.

If you're a fan of weird comedy, greaseball fast food or smoking the ganja, you may find yourself a fan of Harold and his buddy Kumar.

Earlier this month, comedy-lovers saw the DVD release of the bizarre stoner film "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle." The movie was directed by Danny Leiner who had directed movies like "Dude, Where's My Car?" In style, "Harold and Kumar..." is very similar to Leiner's earlier movie and films like "Eurotrip." While it's not a ground-breaking movie, the humor in "Harold and Kumar..." is executed so that viewers get something fresh, exciting and amusing.

John Cho, who made appearances in the "American Pie" series, plays the role of Harold Lee, a tightly-wound employee at an investment banking firm. Harold lives in a New Jersey apartment with his slack-jawed, med-school bound roommate Kumar Patel, played by Kal Penn.

Harold and Kumar start their Friday evening off by getting baked in their apartment. Just as the munchies hit them both, a commercial for White Castle (set appropriately to porno music) comes on their television. The duo makes a pact to not end their night until they eat at White Castle. They embark on a series of deranged and goofy adventures along the way, including diseased raccoons, a "business" hippie, an annoying gang of extreme sports punks, a mechanic covered with hideous boils and Neil Patrick Harris of "Doogie Howser, M.D." fame.

"Harold and Kumar..." is funny because of how freewheeling and random it is. The pair move from one dilemma to the next without warning. Witty one-liners quickly lead into fart jokes before the movie launches into social commentary and animated dancing hamburgers. A lot of the movie's comedy comes from its ability to catch viewers by surprise.

The DVD is packed full of additional features and extras that make the movie a little more fun to watch. There are interviews with several of the cast members including Cho and Penn, audio commentaries with the directors, actors and writers as well as a special commentary by "Extreme Sports Punk #1," four cut scenes and a music video.

The special features also include two short films about the film's production. One short, "A Trip to the Land of Burgers" shows how graphic designer Chevon Hicks created the movie's animated scene. Another short, "The Art of the Fart" is an uncomfortably long explanation of how sound engineers created the fart noises used in one of the scenes.

While "Harold and Kumar..." may not be the pinnacle of originality, it's not worth passing up either.

The film's weird comedy, as well as the DVD's bonus features, may be reason enough to pick it up.

COMMENTARY

# The end of the world?

**By Amber Corrin**  
 The Daily Atheneum (WVU)

(U-WIRE) MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — I'm convinced: It is actually the end of the world.

Call me a pessimist, but if you ask me, the apocalypse is glaringly apparent. Why, you ask? Well, I've devised a theory. Given the evidence, I think our time is limited, and therefore, it's time to start squeezing every day for what it's worth.

First off, of course, there's the tsunami business. All over the world, people were (and still are) glued to the television, watching the turmoil and carnage unfold with the same interest that caused an entire nation to become addicted to the O.J. Simpson case.

OK, maybe the tsunami alone is not symptomatic of the end of the world. But then you take into account its effects.

"The earth was knocked off its axis by five degrees! Polar ice caps are sliding into South America! We're either going to drown when the North Pole melts or we're headed for another Ice Age!"

Thus went the doomsaying at one particular New Year's party I happened upon (yep, they know how to party in

"We're either going to drown when the North Pole melts or we're headed for another Ice Age!"

Washington state, let me tell you).

Now, I don't necessarily subscribe to such an overly dramatic school of thought. However, some of those fears are very real — the earth is reverberating on its axis, according to scientists, who also claim that islands have moved, giant cracks have splintered the earth, ice caps are moving and melting and, last but certainly not least, the rotation of the planet has accelerated.

Great, so not only are we headed to the end, we've merged into the fast lane.

Not convinced? I wasn't either. Until I started to take note of other apocalyptic occurrences.

Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have split up. Reality TV has taken over as the king of entertainment. Ashlee Simpson, inexplicably, is still famous. Our nation is split over boobs (Janet Jackson's), butts (Randy Moss) and bungled elections. Kangaroos are wandering the Wisconsin wilderness.

And speaking of animals, unfortunately, we humans have not yet caught on to the clairvoyant capabilities of our

furry friends. Animals have a sixth sense when it comes to disasters — many of them escaped harm in the tsunami. You have probably even witnessed this phenomenon yourself, like when you see cows laying down in wait for a rainstorm.

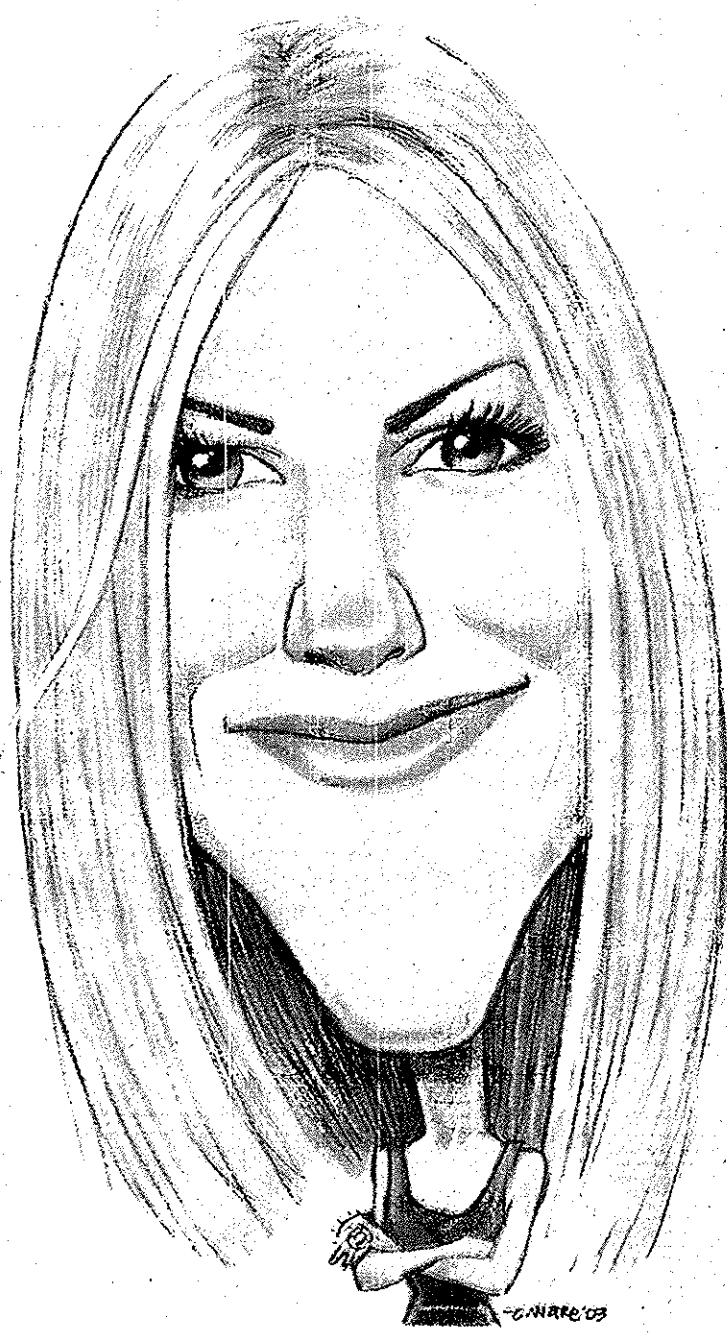
Further evidence the world is ending? Even forest-dwelling creatures are hip to the end of the world and are seeking consolation — like that bear in the woods who drank a whole case of beer and was found passed out in a tree in Washington.

The thing about the world ending, though, is that maybe we think we have a time frame for its arrival, but no one actually knows for sure. A cruel joke on the part of Mother Nature to keep us on our toes? Or are we just ignoring her hints because we think we're invincible?

Even if we did know, what would we do? Think about it. If the world were ending tomorrow, would you be ready? Would you really be satisfied with your life?

It's a new year, maybe the last year. We'll most likely never know until we are all suddenly creamed by asteroids, MIAs from WMDs, or are stricken with acid reflux. What can you do?

Live like it's your last breath, and party like it's the "End of Days."



CD REVIEW

# Unwritten Law not bad, but not great either

**By Bill Rogers**  
 The Jambar



Southern California pop-punk band Unwritten Law. (Photo courtesy of Unwritten Law)

SoCal punk-pop quintet Unwritten Law, most notable for their breakthrough 2002 hit "Seein' Red," spent the month of December touring across the country in preparation for the Feb. 7 release of "Here's To the Mourning," the band's fifth studio release.

"Save Me," the band's first radio single from the new CD, is already enjoying some airtime on

alternative rock stations, prepping fans for the album's release. Unwritten Law is proud of their new musical effort, citing it as a progressive album for the band.

"It's pretty wicked stuff," vocalist Scott Russo commented. "We're trying to make an evolutionary step."

The new CD draws on some outside production and songwriting talent. The album was co-produced by Sean Beavan, who worked with Nine Inch Nails and Marilyn Manson; and Josh Abraham, who

helped produce CDs for Staind and Velvet Revolver. Pop songwriter Linda Perry, formerly of the band 4 Non Blondes, also collaborated with the band to write "Save Me."

Unwritten Law's record company, Lava Records, sent the Jambar a three-song demo of the new CD. Lava declared the songs would be "...perhaps the finest rock tunes of 2005." After listening to the demo, Lava's claim seemed a little misguided. The songs aren't the most brilliant things to have graced my CD player in recent months, but

they're not too shabby either.

"Save Me," the single Lava spent the most time crowing about, was the first track on the demo. The song's lyrics are hinged on self-loathing. "You can't save me/ You can't change me/ I'm waiting for my wakeup call/ And everything's my fault," sings Russo in the song's upbeat and catchy chorus. Yet, the chorus runs itself a bit thin for all the time Russo spends singing it over and over.

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