

# the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 44 The student voice of Youngstown State University

Weather >> partly cloudy  
39 | 34  
wednesday: snow, 44/41  
thursday: rain, 51/39

Inside



•It's Valentine's Day!  
Bob Mackey gives us his list of love songs.

Entertainment | see page 8



•Despite a tough loss, the YSU women are ready to face rival Cleveland State.

Sports | see page 7

In Brief

Bioethics lecture set for today

A lecture on End of Life Care will be held today at 12:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center by Howard Brody of Michigan State University's philosophy department. The lecture is titled "Religion, Bioethics, and End-of-Life Care in America" and is part of the Albert J. Shipka speakers series.

Photojournalist poet speaks Thursday

Poet Diane Fisher and photojournalist Earl Dotter will be part of "Of Appalachia and Miners," a free event sponsored by Working-Class Studies and the English Department. The event will be held in the Presidential Suite of Kilcawley Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact John Russo or Sherry Linkon at (330) 941-2976 or jbruso@ysu.edu.

MORE NEWS, PAGE 6

the jambar poll question  
Last Question  
Have you caught the flu this season?  
21% 79%  
Yes No  
Today's Question  
Do you have a valentine this year?  
vote online  
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INTODAY'S JAMBAR

- ▶ Classified | 4
- ▶ Entertainment | 8
- ▶ Opinion | 3
- ▶ Sports | 7



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YSU

## Unresolved grievances pile up

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

They were called "a symptom of the dysfunction" by Youngstown State University trustee John Pogue. The accumulated grievances by the Association of Classified Employees were labeled as "excessive" by the Labor-Management Relations Panel. Of 71 grievances filed in recent months, 35 grievances are pending arbitration between the union, YSU's legal staff and a federal arbitrator.

With each arbitration hearing costing YSU an estimated \$10,000 in legal fees, the ACE union was criticized by university administration for filing too many grievances. The ACE union claims the high number of grievance arbitrations is due to a failure in Human Resources to effectively handle complaints. Each side criticized the other for not resolving complaints before they reached arbitration stage.

"We should only have about two to four arbitrations a year," said Holly Jacobs, YSU general counsel.

An arbitration is the final stage of resolving complaints from a bargaining unit against the university. Complaints are handled in a four-step process, beginning with a grievant's supervisor and ending in the office of Human Resources and its director Hugh Chatman before going to arbitration. At any time before arbitration, the two groups can meet to resolve the complaint.

In arbitration, each side presents their case to an objective federal arbitrator, who rules either for the university or the union, or at times,

a mediation between the two groups. Jacobs said the university typically hires outside legal counsel for the hearings, which can cost between \$7,000 to \$10,000 per case.

Jacobs said hiring outside counsel was a standard university practice, and a necessity.

"There's no way my office can take the work on by itself," Jacobs said. "We have many other things going on besides labor-management disputes."

please see GRIEVANCES, Page 2

YSU

## Lead report calls for abatement

By: Leonard Glenn Crist  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

High levels of lead contamination on the roof of Beeghly Center will require abatement, an independent environmental assessment firm hired by Youngstown State University has determined.

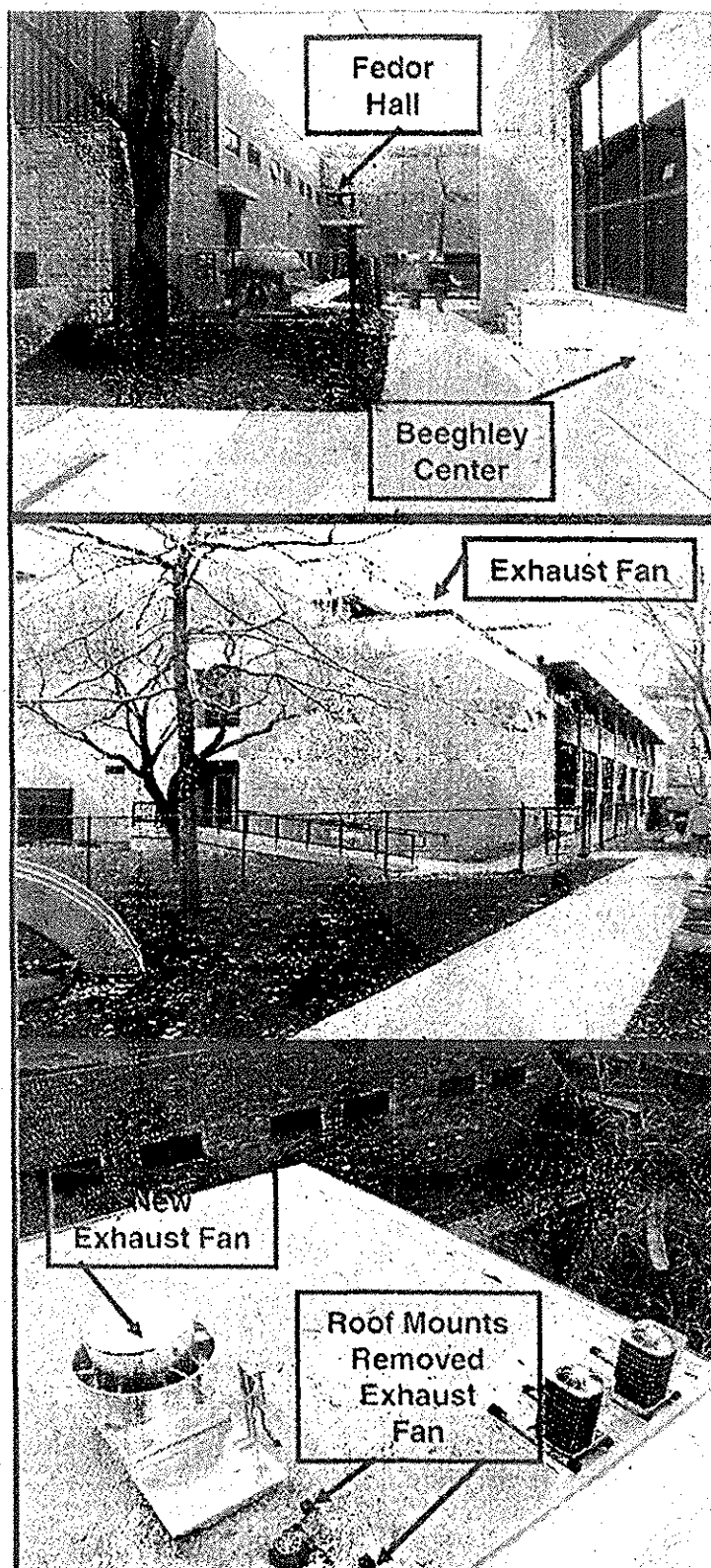
John Kominsky, of the Cincinnati firm Environmental Quality Management, Inc., directed the assessment. A certified lead risk assessor from EA Group, Inc., performed the actual sampling while Kominsky observed. A report containing Kominsky's findings and recommendations was delivered to YSU on Friday.

Sandra Denman, YSU's director of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, said Monday that YSU would comply with all of the report's recommendations.

Denman said she would work on finding contractors to implement the report's recommendations this week.

"We don't plan on delaying implementation of this. We're going to move forward to identify and make the arrangements to do that, but practically speaking, it's probably not going to happen this week," Denman said.

please see LEAD, Page 4



Pictures Courtesy of Environmental Quality Management, Inc.

The three photos on the left highlight the proximity of the daycare playground and the Beeghly Center roof that are at the heart of the recently released lead assessment report. The three photos on the right show the lead risk assessor collecting samples and washing a spoon between each sample collected.

YOUNGSTOWN

## Homelessness hits close to home

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

Vindicator reporter John Goodwin attempted a reporting stunt last month when he took to the streets for two days, pretending to be homeless. Bringing along a sleeping bag in case he couldn't find shelter, Goodwin attempted to test the giving nature of his fellow Youngstowners by panhandling.

After two days, Goodwin was cold, tired, sore and only had \$3 to show for his effort. He said he was left with doubts about the giving nature of society.

Goodwin said panhandling failed him, but he was impressed by the serv-

ices he provided at lunch lines and at the Rescue Mission emergency shelter on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

"What I suggest society should do is to continue to give to organizations like the food bank. Hopefully, we can continue to support their efforts to help people get back on their feet. Hopefully, people can continue to find these services," Goodwin said.

A new countrywide project could help the homeless find such services. A databasing project at Youngstown State University, the Homeless Management Information System, could both help individual homeless people

please see HOMELESS, Page 5

WHAT NOT TO WEAR

## Workshop will offer fun and advice to students entering workplace

By: Katie Libecco  
COPY EDITOR

Studies continue to prove that first impressions are made in under a minute.

This is especially true during job interviews, said Diane Hritz, a coordinator of Youngstown State University's Career and Counseling Services. Hritz is coordinating Wednesday's "What Not to Wear and What to Wear to Interviews and Beyond," a workshop in job interview apparel.

"It was born out of employers coming to us and saying, 'Students, not just at YSU but in general, aren't coming to interviews dressed appropriately' and realizing we needed to edu-

cate," she said.

"What Not to Wear" will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. It is sponsored by YSU's Career and Counseling Services.

The event will focus on practical, low-cost ways of looking appropriate for job interviews. There will be six students models, three males and three females. What will make this fashion show unique is the fact that there will be a panel of local employers to provide immediate response to the attire.

The employers will include Brian Alfred and Joann Lokey from Sky Bank, Cindy Terry, from First Energy, Jim Stitt, Boardman City Schools, and Ann Marie Ondo from

Forum Health.

Hritz said that she saw a big need for such a workshop to take place at YSU because she understood the difficulty in bridging the gap between school and the workplace.

"We want students to look like students when they are here, but we also want them to look professional at their interviews," she said.

She described students as being sometimes "shell-shocked" at interviews.

"Society has gone to more casual dress code. A lot of this has to do with stores putting things in the 'business section' that are inappropriate for an interview and are a red flag for an employer," she said.

please see INTERVIEWS, page 6



GRIEVANCES, continued from page 1

Why 35 grievances — which include complaints ranging from allegations that employees were denied hazard pay to a claim that ACE employees should have been paid holiday pay for former President Ronald Reagan's funeral in 2004 — are pending arbitration is a subject of debate. But Pogue said they were a symptom of labor problems at YSU, not the problems themselves.

Grievances are a product of frustration of the current system. If we can fix the process, the number of grievances should drop accordingly," Pogue said.

The process governing grievances seems to have broken down in a few areas; those causes differ depending on who is asked to identify them. One of the major issues is a lack of discussion between the two groups. Jacobs said that the two groups could meet at any time prior to an arbitration to settle a complaint.

YSU-ACE President Christine Domhoff said that she believed Human Resources director Hugh Chatman refused to respond to settlement offers by the union before the grievances went to arbitration, opting instead to send in a written disposition or have Steve Lucivjansky, the director of classified staff relations to discuss the issue with the bargaining unit. Domhoff said Lucivjansky sometimes wasn't authorized by Chatman to settle the issues with the union.

"We want to meet to resolve these issues, but Chatman asked for times when we'll just meet and talk. We can't do that when we have work to do. He wouldn't come to grievance hearings any more. He just issues a written disposition," Domhoff said.

Chatman responded to the claim, saying that he has never denied a meeting with the union. But when it becomes obvious the university cannot reach a settlement with the union, he issues a written disposition explaining the university's side. He also said Lucivjansky had as much authority to settle disputes as he did to resolve the complaints. Chatman said he had to take into account the wishes of the president and the board before making promises to the union during settlements.

"We have to act on behalf of the university, the president and the board of trustees," Chatman said. Lucivjansky contacted

Lawyers out as chief negotiators

The Labor-Management Review Panel Report released last month suggested that YSU do away with using lawyers as the chief negotiators on its negotiating teams. Panel member John Pogue and panel chair Robert Herbert clarified the stance, saying it would help the atmosphere of the negotiations if the head negotiators came from the university.

"It would show that we're in this together even with we're on opposite sides of the table," Herbert said.

Pogue said the recommendation wasn't to save university money, and that the university will retain council to confer on legal issues that rise out of the strikes.

"We didn't test the recommendation as a cost saving measure. Speaking as a trustee, you want legal involvement when negotiating contracts," Pogue said.

Jim Wilkins of the Akron firm Kastner, Westman and Wilkins acted as chief negotiator for the ACE contract agreement.

Holly Jacobs, YSU's general counsel estimated the accumulated legal fees from the summer's contract talks at \$60,000. She said that the total would be lower in a typical negotiation session.

"But with a strike, they were very atypical negotiations," Jacobs said.

the union on March 15 of last year asking for dates to settle 15 of the grievances, but the settlement talks were postponed because of the upcoming contract negotiations.

"We went into negotiations and never quite got back on track. It's still a possibility that we will," Lucivjansky said.

Another reason why there could be so many grievances, Chatman said, is that the union files several separate complaints when one could cover all. This occurred in a union request for a seniority staff list for the Maag Library last year. The union asked for a seniority list for 15 employees, then filed 15 grievances when human resources failed to comply with the request.

"Our council told us to file each one individually, in case a number of people's complaints could be resolved but not others," Domhoff said, adding that sometimes, separate people could have a unique case for the same complaint.

Jacobs said that in these cases, the two groups decide to consolidate multiple complaints into a single arbitration hearing. This saves time, legal fees, and ensures uniformity since one arbitrator would be hearing the complaints.

When asked about the cost to the university, Chatman said the toll of arbitrating complaints was "very costly."

"That all gets passed on

to students," Chatman said.

Chatman's statement could be the pot calling the kettle black, according to Domhoff. She pointed out that the university's legal council, paid \$125 hourly, sometimes argues that grievances cannot be arbitrated, simply wasting time and money in arbitration hearings.

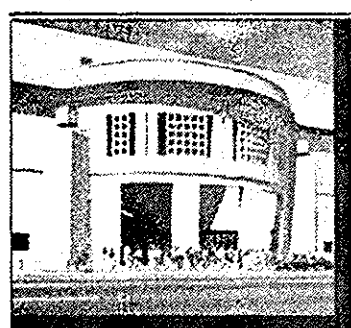
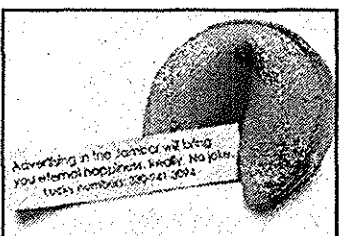
Jacobs said the cost of hiring council is already budgeted for her office each year.

"It would sure be nice to save some extra money, though," Jacobs said.

Ivan Maldonado, YSU-ACE union vice president, pointed out that the union settled with the university on at least 21 grievances in the past two years. He said the union's grievances shouldn't be seen as "frivolous" since the grievances represent the needs of his bargaining unit.

"Perception becomes reality. These issues are important to the members of the union. The university needs to move forward and discuss this with them," Maldonado said.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.



The Youngstown State University Judaic and Holocaust Studies Committee is proud to offer a Trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Date: March 12, 2006
Time: Bus will depart YSU at 3:00 a.m. and return at approximately 11:00 p.m.
Fee: \$10.00 (cash or check made out to YSU)

To secure a place on the trip, please send the above fee along with a brief 1-2 paragraph explanation of why you would like to go to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. If you are going on the trip as part of a class, please include that information on your application.

Limited spaces available, first come first serve
Submit by February 15, 2006 to:

Pamela Palumbo
Office of Events Management
Tod Hall
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, OH 44555

After registering, you will be notified of a short meeting prior to the trip date for a required orientation and discussion of details.

For trip questions, please call Dr. Helene Sinnreich
Department of History (330) 941-1603 or email at hjsinnreich@ysu.edu

GOVERNMENT

Cheney's companion at fault in shooting, White House says

By: William Douglas
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The White House blamed the 78-year-old man whom Vice President Dick Cheney shot during a weekend quail hunting trip in Texas for the incident, as officials struggled Monday to explain why they waited nearly 24 hours before making the news public.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan tried to absolve Cheney of blame for shooting wealthy Austin lawyer Harry Whittington, saying that hunting "protocol" was not followed by Mr. Whittington when it came to notifying others that he was there. And so, you know, unfortunately, these types of hunting accidents happen from time to time.

Several hunting experts were skeptical of McClellan's explanation. They said Cheney might have violated a cardinal rule of hunting: Know your surroundings before you pull the trigger.

"Particularly identify the game that you are shooting and particularly identify your surroundings, that it's safe to shoot," said Mark Birkhauser, the incoming president of the International Hunter Education Association, a group of fish and wildlife agencies. "Every second, you're adjusting your personal information that it is a safe area to shoot or it's not a safe area to shoot."

"Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt," the NRA says in the gun-safety rules on its Web site. "Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second."

Cheney has a Texas non-resident hunting license, but he failed to get a \$7 stamp that's required to hunt game birds, the vice president's office said in a statement Monday night. He has since sent a check to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to buy the stamp, the statement said.

Whittington was listed in stable condition Monday at a hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, with birdshot wounds to his face, neck and chest. The shooting occurred

about 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Armstrong Ranch, a 50,000-acre spread in south Texas owned by friends of the president.

White House and Texas law enforcement officials haven't provided a detailed account of the incident. Katharine Armstrong, one of the ranch's owners, said Cheney, Whittington and another hunter got out of their vehicle to shoot a covey of quail. The third member of the hunting party was the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, Pamela Willeford, a Texan and a Bush family friend.

Whittington shot a bird and went to get it, breaking from Cheney and Willeford. Armstrong said Whittington then came up from behind without signaling, and as a covey flushed Cheney wheeled and fired his .28-gauge shotgun, hitting Whittington.

Though the shooting happened Saturday afternoon, it didn't become public knowledge until Armstrong notified the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, her local paper, at midday Sunday. The White House then confirmed news media requests for verification.

Lee Anne McBride, Cheney's press secretary, talked Sunday about Whittington's condition and said the vice president had spoken with him and was pleased with his condition. But she referred most questions — from the names of everyone in the hunting party to what type of weapon Cheney had fired — to Armstrong.

"The vice president thought that Mrs. Armstrong should be the first one to go out there and provide that information to the public, which she did," McClellan said.

Cheney's office has a history of not sharing information with the public. Last month, it refused to specify the nature of a foot injury for which he was given medication that caused water retention and shortness of breath and sent him to the hospital.

"He's secretive by nature," said Larry Sabato, the director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "It's a dumb thing for officials to do, especially someone as experienced as Cheney. Just imagine what Jon Stewart, Jay Leno and David Letterman are going to do to him for days. It's a self-inflicted wound."

African American History Month 2006
Schedule of Events 2006
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4: Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center. The African Marketplace. The marketplace is one of the popular attractions of African American History Month at YSU. In the typical tradition of the African weekly market, vendors from neighboring states and beyond bring goods, wares, clothing, books, jewelry and a variety of products from Africa and the African Diaspora. The marketplace features live music and dance provided by the dynamic Kwanzaa Youth Group and many other special guests.



# Editorial & Opinion

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-1991

Page 3

## thejambar

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### OUR SIDE

## Kudos to Denman's response to lead recommendations

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of worry that hazardous lead dust is seeping out of an exhaust vent from Beeghly Center. But according to a report released by the Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety and a Cincinnati environmental consultant, we don't have too much to worry about.

A new exhaust fan installed for the firing range in Beeghly raised some concerns last semester. The new exhaust system didn't use a HEPA particulate air filter, leaving some with the impression that particulate lead from fired bullets in the rifle range could possibly enter the air around Beeghly, Fedor Hall and a daycare playground.

The YSU safety office hired John Kominsky of Cincinnati-based Environmental Quality Management, Inc. during December to test lead levels around campus. Kominsky took samples from different areas of campus including the playground, Fedor, Beeghly's roof and the campus core.

The collected data suggested that the replaced exhaust fan contributed to lead contamination on the roof of Beeghly Center. The study found the highest level of lead contamination ranging from 3,000 to 98,000 micrograms of lead per square foot around the roof drain and gravel surfacing.

The report recommended that the roof drain be cleaned with a lead-specific detergent and the roof covered with asphalt roofing adhesive after removing the existing gravel surfacing.

To any children who may be reading: You don't have to worry about being poisoned by the friendly-looking blue plastic dinosaur you play on. The tests on the playground showed that lead concentrations in the soil were about the same as the levels found on the campus core. The playground soil averaged 30.5 milligrams per kilogram. The U.S. EPA guideline for soil in children's playgrounds is 400 milligrams of lead per kilogram.

The levels of lead found on the playground equipment ranged from being too small to be detected to nine micrograms per square foot.

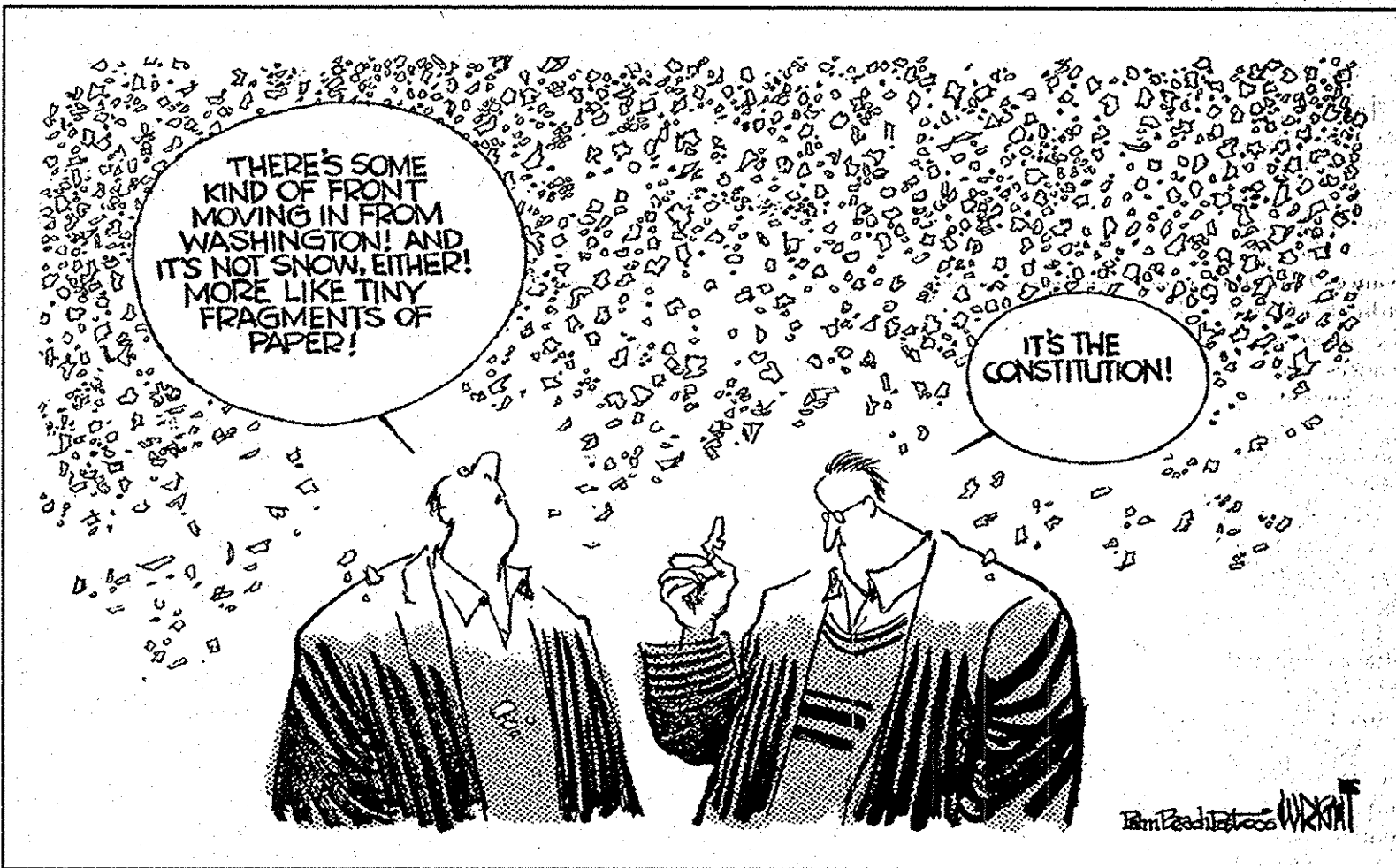
A canopy entrance to Fedor Hall tested in at 23,000 micrograms, but a disparity between that reading and readings on other sections of Fedor could show that the higher level isn't due to the firing range exhaust, but rather from a lead-alloy used in making the canopy entrance.

The report also recommended that the lead emission rate from the firing range be determined as well as the levels of lead concentration surrounding the exhaust fan while the firing range is in use. The recommendations could determine the risk to university workers who have to access the roof.

Sandy Denman of YSU's Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Office said she intends to follow the report's recommendations. Kudos to Denman and the university for following up on the lead concerns. Their actions help to assure safety on campus and show good faith to concerned university employees who increasingly feel that their concerns are brushed over by an uncaring management.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Commentaries and columns reflect only the views of the individual who wrote the piece. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### "Wings, Beer, Bush and absolutely no brains"

Editor:

The front page Jambar article of Feb. 2nd, covering the State of the Union Address, may as well have been entitled "Wings, Beer, Bush and absolutely no brains." If you watched the address and followed the major news coverage on television, you would have been left with the impression that the USA was back on track, with a healthy economy and strong defense. However, if you checked the media coverage from the other 96 percent of the world's population you would have seen a flashback to 2004 and "How dumb can 59,054,087 people be?" BBC news reported that the mood of the majority party, in the halls of Congress, was that of soccer hooligans in church. Locally, WYTV covered college students, watching the president's address at a bar. The interviewed Young Republican was in complete agreement with Bush, but felt that the president erred in not calling for increased security at US borders.

Apparently YSU College Republicans object to Mexicans cleaning hotel toilets for sub-minimum wage and want to block great-grandma from making an attempt to buy life saving medications at the Canadian border. I can sarcastically suggest that this would be a great opportunity for Bush to use his faith based initiative to patrol both borders by turning security over to bible gun clubs.

The Bush promise to higher education did not even last until the end of Tuesday's address, as Bush took aim at 141 federal programs that do not fit his agenda. Bush called these "failed or poorly performing programs." Anyone with a social or environmental conscience sees these as programs of great need, already gutted and filled with yes men, by Bush. The failed programs now include a gagged and bound Environmental Protection Agency, a scientifically neutered NASA and everybody's favorite federal agency - FEMA. On television, Jay Leno seemed to be the only one noticed the targeted 141 programs. I did the math with George's own numbers from his address. The total elimination of all 141 programs will provide

enough money to run Bush's War for only 32 days. If we can afford a war can't we afford schools and health care?

The Bush vow to reduce Mideast oil imports did not last one day. To quote the Washington Post, "One day after president Bush vowed to reduce America's dependence on Middle East oil by cutting imports from there 75 percent by 2025, his energy secretary and national economic advisor said Wednesday that the president didn't mean it literally." The article continues in grim terms. Do the math yourself my friends. Look it up. Of the top five nations from which we import oil, only one, Saudi Arabia is in the Middle East. The Middle East accounts for 20 percent of the 60 percent total we import, or one-tenth of US oil consumption.

His vow to reduce the deficit did not last two days. The latest tax cut for the rich totals \$60 billion and Bush is now asking for an additional 60 billion dollar increase in his 2007 budget of 2.77 trillion dollars.

Just before Bush spoke of Freedom on Tuesday night, Cindy Sheehan was jailed for wearing a T-shirt that simply said 2,245

dead."

I am going to finish by asking the Jambar to reprint from my letter, one year ago, and end with the words "I told you so."

From The Jambar, Feb. 10, 2005:

Four years ago George W. Bush inherited the largest budget surplus and the strongest economy of the past 50 years. At that time he already had plans to gut a century of hard won social and economic gains, but if in the year 2001: GWB had proposed a budget that slashed 150 programs centered on American farms, education, housing, public transportation, environmental protection and just plain social justice his own party would have turned their back on Bush. In January 2001 the Congressional Budget Office projected the surplus would reach \$281 billion in 2001, \$881 billion by 2011 and accumulate \$5.6 trillion by 2011.

[CBO, Budget and Economic Outlook, 1/01] You can look this up for yourself at www.cbo.gov) Bush then passed his now infamous "tax cut for the rich" and in them year 2002 America posted its first deficit since 1997, which has grown to \$477 billion in 2004. This is the largest deficit in history,

larger than the previous record of \$290 billion in 1992 by George the First. And now, by the CBO's own estimate, (I quote) "The deficit will exceed \$400 billion every year through 2014." [CBO, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities 12/1/04.]

Bush has trashed our economy. The dollar is down against the Euro, down against the Yen and all major Asian currencies, and at a record low against major markets, hoard my Canadian quarters. Against this downturn Bush will now take revenge on those same 150 programs he dared not touch in 2001. Today in the news, as I now write this, 12 were killed and 60 injured in a suicide bombing, in a separate attack 15 more died. It sickens me to write this: In the two weeks preceding the Super Bowl over 50 Americans died in Iraq. Locally, Columbian schools may close one, if not two, schools and face layoffs, Trumbull County will layoff patrol and support personnel and NASA Glenn Research will layoff 700 of its 1,900 employees. The WMD of our economy is GWB.

Richard Pirkio  
Department of Physics  
and Astronomy

### COMMENTARY

## Taft's education plan detrimental to YSU

By: Cristina Cala  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If Gov. Bob Taft wants Ohio students to perform better, he better be willing to provide the resources. In his Jan. 25 proposal for more rigorous high school curriculum requirements, Taft called for removal of all remedial courses from Ohio's state-funded four-year colleges. Taft calls this "raising the bar" for high school students, but not every student is ready or capable to reach a bar at Taft's height.

Removing remedial courses from colleges like Youngstown State University would be detrimental to students and the university itself. Taft thinks that forcing high school students to take an extra year of math, science and two years of a foreign language is going to deem them "ready" for college. Placing harsher requirements on high school students is not going to prepare them if they are already suffering academically.

Because academic capability varies from student to student, not every student is ready to jump into Writing 1, the basic freshman English class at YSU. For example, if an advanced student gets the opportunity to test out of Writing 1, then

a student who is not at a college writing level deserves the opportunity to build the skills needed for Writing 1, and for his or her college career. It is not right to push responsibility for remedial students off on community colleges and high school teachers.

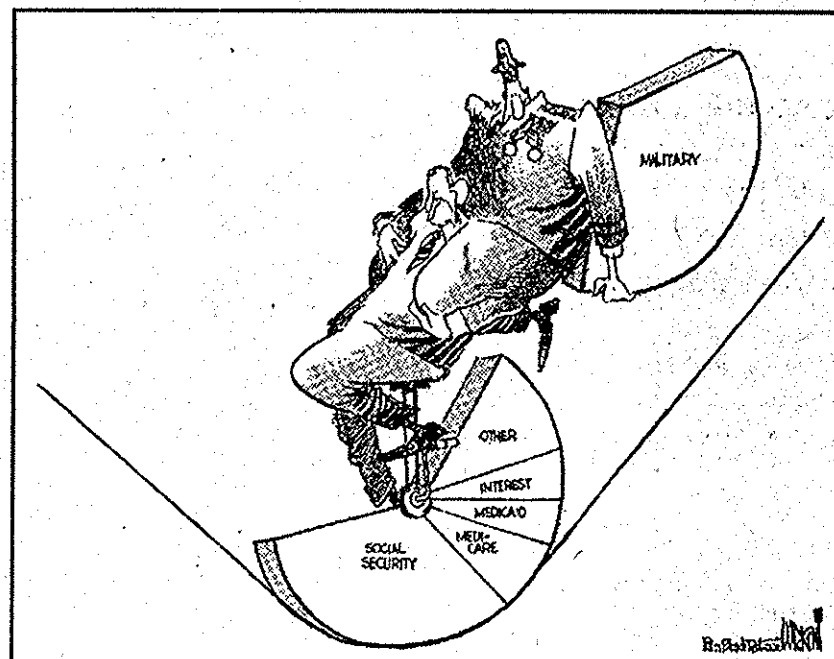
The resources are offered at YSU now, in classes like Fundamental College Writing 1539, Intro to College Writing 1540, and Reading and Study Skills.

Under Taft's proposal, offering such remedial education — a total of 39 classes at YSU this semester — only at two-year colleges would nix YSU as a school choice for students who don't test into Writing 1, thus decreasing YSU's enrollment.

YSU is not a

community college, but it is an open enrollment school. That means any person deserves a shot.

Taft's proposal places a burden on Youngstown's future college students. Dumping remedial courses on two-year community colleges so as not to tarnish state-funded schools is not going to make the need for remedial education disappear.





**LEAD**, continued from page 1

Kominsky was hired by YSU in November following a grievance filed by Ivan Maldonado, vice president of YSU's Association of Classified Employees staff union.

The grievance expressed concern that a new filterless exhaust system on Beeghly Center's roof that connected to an indoor firing range might be shooting potentially harmful lead particles into the air and onto a nearby daycare playground. Maldonado later agreed to put the grievance on hold pending further testing.

Maldonado termed the report a good first step, but said he had reservations about the uncertainty of some of the findings. The report found high lead levels on metal canopy roofs over Fedor hall entrances, but couldn't determine the source of the contamination.

Maldonado said he would not yet drop his grievance.

Initial testing performed by Denman in October and November found high levels of lead near a drainage pipe on Beeghly's roof, but no harmful lead exposure on the playground.

Kominsky's testing confirmed Denman's initial results. He measured lead levels at the playground area, Beeghly Center's roof, the exterior of Fedor Hall and Room 322 in Beeghly Center.

The report stated that the old exhaust fan, not the new one, was likely the cause of the contamination on the roof. The new fan had not yet been used at the time of testing.

The roof showed an average lead level of 98 micrograms per square foot test-

ed, which is approximately 2 times higher than Ohio's interior lead dust standards for floors, but approximately 2.5 times lower than the standards for window sills. State lead standards vary by situation and Ohio has no regulations regarding contamination of roofs.

The highest levels of lead contamination were present around a roof drain and on the roofing membrane near where the old fan exhausted. Lead levels there showed contamination of between 3,000 and 98,000 micrograms of lead per square foot tested, though the report said the highest lead level "may be due to contact with the lead-containing drain flashing"

To eliminate the lead contamination on the roof, the report recommended covering the roof drain with asphalt roofing adhesive and gravel surfacing. The current gravel surfacing should be removed and the roof drain "should be thoroughly scrubbed with a lead-specific detergent" and the washed surfaces should be rinsed with a clean detergent solution. The wash and rinse procedure should be completed twice and the roof drain should be sealed to prevent entry of the wash water.

The report also stated: "The extent that the lead levels measured around the roof drain were released into the storm water discharge could be determined by sampling the discharge from the building drain, if it could be located, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code..."

In addition to the lead abatement, the report recommended that YSU determine the lead emission rate

from the firing range.

The report also recommended that YSU conduct sampling "to determine the potential inhalation exposure concentration that could be experienced by a person on the roof during active use of the firing range." The report recommended the sampling be conducted when the wind speed is greater than 10 mph.

Finally, the report stated that the "need for additional air and soil sampling should be determined based on the results obtained from" from the emissions and inhalation exposure testing.

Kominsky also tested the playground area and found lead levels in the soil and on the playground equipment safely below Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio guidelines and standards.

Testing done in Beeghly Center Room 322 also revealed levels below state standards.

Testing on exterior surfaces on Fedor Hall were also below state standards, however the "unpainted metal canopy at the south and east entrances showed significantly higher levels of lead" — between 2,800 and 23,000 micrograms of lead per square foot tested. The source of the lead was not determined, but the report states that it is not likely due to discharged air from the rifle range. Because maintenance personnel rarely access the canopy, no remedial action was recommended.

Call Leonard Glenn Crist at (330) 941-1991.

**GIFT IDEAS**

**Low on funds? You can still give a great gift**

By: Linh Bui  
KNIGHT RIDDER/ TRIBUNE INFORMATION SERVICES (KRT)

Valentine's Day can be tough for a college student on a budget. This year, skip the dozens of roses, boxes of chocolates or expensive dinners. A handmade gift from the heart can leave a lasting impression. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

**MIX CD:** Instead of the typical mix CD, have this one document your relationship from the start to the present. Each song can represent a memorable experience in your history together. Include an album jacket, but instead of writing the lyrics to each song, write out your reasons for why that song means something to you.

**GAMES:** Put together a collection of homemade games. Make a crossword puzzle with clues like "Where we had our first date" or "Our song." Write a Mad Lib of the story of how you met. Blow up a picture of you two, glue it to a piece of cardboard and then cut it into puzzle pieces. Have fun playing them together.

**MEMORY BOX:** Decorate an empty box and inside place messages or memories. You can include notes with simple messages, like "I love you because..."; the lyrics or quotes from your song; pictures; ticket stubs from movies you saw together; or a take-out menu from your favorite restaurant. For those truly ambitious, put in 365

objects so your love can pull out a new memory every day of the year.

**ROMANTIC BATH KIT:** Make personalized soap bars using glycerin, scented oils, food dye and soap molds. Or, simply buy an inexpensive "make your own soap" kit. Everything can be found at your local arts and crafts store. Choose the colors and scents you think your sweetie will enjoy. Make the soaps special by putting little trinkets inside the bars. In love with a poker fiend? Drop some poker chips inside the soap as it cools. (Tip: Don't dig into his chip stash unless you get an OK to borrow them for extended use.) Do flowers put her in the mood? Disassemble a rose, preferably silk, and pretty up her personalized bar of soap.

**SWEETS:** They say the quickest way to a man's heart is through his stomach, right? (Hint: This works for girls, too.) Bake and decorate heart-shaped cookies, a heart-shaped cake or cup cakes. Get creative by using sprinkles, chocolate chips or frosting to spell out a message. The Ghirardelli Web site ([www.ghirardelli.com](http://www.ghirardelli.com)) has tons of simple recipes using their chocolate, like the simple dark chocolate truffles that are made with chocolate chips, butter and cream and dusted with cocoa.

**PICTURE FRAME:** Buy an inexpensive, plain wooden picture frame. Then, cut out words or images from magazines that remind you of your love. Use these clippings to create a collage on the frame and then put a picture of the two of you inside.



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**Chelsea Court Apartments** 6300 South Avenue. (330) 758-4695. Move in Special \$99, 1 and 2 bedrooms. 15 minutes from YSU. Ranch-style apartments. [www.rentnet.com](http://www.rentnet.com).

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**Aikido Seminar Sensei Andy Demko,** 6th Dan, will conduct Aikido Seminars Feb. 2nd, 18th and March 2nd. Contact Brandy at YSU rec center for details. All are welcome.

**DISCOUNT TO YSU STUDENTS:** Call Susan at Monet's Hair Salon in Boardman (330) 259-0707 (or 0708). She has day & evening hours Monday/Tuesday/Friday by appointment.

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**PSYCHIC**, continued from page 8

she'd eventually like to teach a class in it.

**See for Yourself**

Whether or not her message is always accurate or even believable, she's a great storyteller. Radovich also delivered messages against drugs and violence. And there are worse things to do than to spend a few hours analyzing points of your life and remembering

those you've lost.

Radovich will be holding another open message workshop 5:30 p.m. March 8. Private readings are also available by calling (330) 788-7446.

More information is also available by visiting [www.withloveandy.com](http://www.withloveandy.com).

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

**LOVE**, continued from page 8

expected to purchase an expensive gift that supposedly gives an indication of the other's worth," Papay said.

A group of friends sat discussing the holiday at The Beat.

"I can't afford to like Valentine's Day," freshman Bryan Ashman.

Senior Ryan Rager, who has dated his girlfriend for more than four years, shared similar thoughts.

"Teddy bears, chocolate and flowers aren't good

gifts. They are so clichéd. It's basically a national excuse to bask in the pleasure of gluttony," Rager said.

But Glavies disagrees with the negative outlook. He said that Valentine's Day is a must.

"It's something to break the monotony of winter and it's something fun to look forward to," Glavies said.

Call Steve Lettau at (330) 941-1913.

**POLICE BLOTTER**

YSU Police responded on Feb. 8 to four females who wished to file a menacing report. According to the police report, the females told police that Anthony Huggins continuously made unwanted flirtatious comments and advances. One female stated in the report that Huggins followed her to her house in Pennsylvania on one occasion. Inappropriate sexual comments were made by Huggins to one of the females and pictures of her were posted on the Internet without her permission, according to the police report.

A YSU police officer responded to Smith Hall on Feb. 9 in reference to a theft from a vehicle. John King told the police officer that he parked his truck in the M-24 parking lot, locked the doors then went to the Rec Center. He told officers that when he returned he found his door unlocked and his CD player removed from his dashboard. According to the report, his cell phone and two CD wallets were also missing.

YSU Police  
Escort Service  
(330) 941-1515

**HOMELESS**, continued from page 1

as they sought out different housing and support services as well as track trends in the homeless population in the county.

Kristey Boyles of YSU's Center for Human Services Development is coordinating the project. Boyles said the project was a country-wide effort funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reduce homelessness by gathering data on individual homeless people. The database is a collaborative effort by 12 organizations in the Mahoning County who receive HUD funding to help with homelessness.

The organizations, which include transition-housing organizations such as the Beatitude House women's shelter and support services such as case management and mental health treatment, enter data into the system about their clients. The 12 groups working together will eventually give Youngstown a snapshot of its homeless population.

"We'll get an actual picture of our homeless population. We can learn who

they are and what brought them to homelessness," said Boyles, who estimates Mahoning County's homeless population at 375.

She said that it was too early in the project to make any claims about what the HMIS data in Mahoning County pointed to, but she said there was a nationwide trend of single parents or families who became homeless due to a lack of employment and affordable housing, a trend that wouldn't be unseen in Youngstown's economic climate.

"There's a stereotype that most homeless people are single. A major problem is that we have a lot of singles as well as families and single parents, or single females with children," Boyles said.

"Given our socio-economic status in the county, many families are just a paycheck away from being homeless," said Boyles.

The information system has a benefit for the individual homeless, too. The 12 homeless organizations, called "the continuum of care" can also use the data on an individual basis to

refer their clients to other services in the continuum.

"Case managers (for homeless individuals) can work online. We can do this wonderful thing so we can quickly determine if someone could be eligible for public benefits such as food stamps," Boyles said.

There are nine HMIS projects across Ohio. Some are in the beginning stages, like Youngstown's. Others, such as the project in Summit County, are preparing to release their earliest findings in a report due out in the spring. Columbus seems to be leading the way in the databasing project, which has been in operation for 10 years.

A December report released by the Columbus group, Community Shelter Board, kept track of homeless demographic data for the year of 2005. The report said that the average daily number of family members seeking emergency shelter was 382. The report said that the average income of these homeless families was \$105 a month, with a 2-bedroom apartment in Franklin County renting for

\$628 a month, according to the National Low Income Housing Association.

Boyles said that the HMIS system in Youngstown would need another year of data entry before she could speculate about the homeless demographic in the county. But for Goodwin, his experiences pointed out that homelessness is far-reaching and can touch more people than most guess.

"One thing that made me stop and think was when I realized that any of us are only a step or two away from homelessness. You could get hit with a couple major happenings, get hit with a major bill and you could very well end up in the same situation," Goodwin said. "Some people look down on the homeless, but you can't do that because we're really not that far removed."

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

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## VALENTINE'S DAY

# Roses are read

By: Mark de la Vina  
NIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS  
(KRT)

Don't even think about getting her phone number. And stop worrying whether he'll call you the next day.

In this age of high-speed instant communication, the manner in which potential lovers interact is a complicated, tiered system that has reconfigured the way we court.

Gone are the days when potential paramours exchange phone numbers and contemplate too long and hard over a call. With the emergence of e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging and handheld devices like Treos and BlackBerries, dating has evolved so that the thrill of a quick response goes hand-in-clammy-hand with the uneasiness of knowing you are reachable no matter where you are.

Michele Fontana, 45, is a divorced networks engineer from Santa Clara, Calif., who changed her dating ways when she incorporated new technology into her life. Unlike younger members of the singles pool who seem born with communication gadgets in hand, Fontana adopted text messaging, buying a Treo 650 and giving up her landline phone.

As doctoral student in neuropsychology at San Jose State University, Fontana used to give her phone number to an interested suitor. Now she prefers exchanging e-mails to establish communication. If she likes what she reads, she suggests talking via Yahoo! messenger or her cell phone.

"If you have a thought or feeling, or if something happens that you want to share, technology allows you to be spontaneous in a way you couldn't before," Fontana says. "It gives you a new avenue to touch them."

Today, people who date are likely to make that first

post-introduction contact through e-mail. A phone conversation follows after some flirtation and virtual footsies are played via text messaging or instant messaging.

Sex expert Helen Fisher agrees that technology is changing the way we date.

A biological anthropologist at Rutgers University who specializes in the evolution and future of sex, love and marriage and gender differences in the brain and behavior, Fisher says new technologies have expanded our ability to communicate while increasing the possibilities — and emotional impact — of dating.

"The technology has made it more emotional," says Fisher, author of "Why We Love: The Nature and Chemistry of Romantic Love" (Henry Holt, 2004). "Not only can you express your emotions almost instantly and have the other person respond, but if you express yourself and they don't respond, you instantly want to know why not."

Noemi Tappang, 20, of San Jose, Calif., prefers to initiate contact with someone interesting via succinct text messaging. A photojournalism major at San Jose State, Tappang explains that texting gives her a degree of control that a phone conversation lacks.

"Text messages are quick," she says. "And you can respond only if you feel like it."

Such means of communication makes sense for anyone locked in the hectic Silicon Valley lifestyle. Oliver Mogan, 35, of San Jose, says that calling on the phone is not always convenient. A systems administrator for the U.S. government, he will give his cell phone number to women, but that isn't always his preferred way of reaching out.

"A lot of people cannot always make calls at will because of their job schedule or lifestyle," he says.

"And you can communicate through text messages and instant messaging at work without the boss knowing."

The downside of text messaging is its depersonalized nature. An e-mail, for example, isn't always something the recipient is obligated to respond to, says Stacie Hrabal, 41, who manages trade shows. And though breaking up on the phone was once considered a "potentially heartless act," those who dated briefly and mostly communicated through e-mail can conveniently end their courtship with an electronic message.

"I went on several dates with a guy, and we weren't feeling the vibe," she says. "So we actually hammered out ending it on e-mail. I preferred that to the phone or talking in person because it allowed me to sit back and carefully think about what to say instead of reacting to him on the phone."

There are pitfalls to establishing a rapport electronically, says Robbie Blinkoff, a principal anthropologist for Context Research, a Baltimore-based ethnographic research company that has tracked such cultural trends as electronic communications.

Like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, who labored over when to advance their exclusively e-mail relationship to an in-person encounter in "You've Got Mail," people who rely too much on electronic interaction, even an emotionally intimate one, ultimately must step it up.

"You have to understand when it's time to put the phone or the BlackBerry down and have a face-to-face," Blinkoff says. "That's a key moment of transition."

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INTERVIEWS, continued from page 1

Hritz stressed the importance of making a good first impression with a potential employer, and that the way someone presents himself or herself is a large part of leaving a lasting good first impression.

"You should definitely wear a business suit and make sure it's clean, neat and appropriately tailored. Look at yourself head-to-toe," Hritz said. "You need to be comfortable in what you're wearing. Try it on, wear it a lot."

Hritz said that it is important to pay attention to details like hair, handbags

## STUDENT WEBSITE

# Student site Facebook raises some eyebrows

By: Patrice Hutton  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS  
(KRT)

Wichita State University junior Anne Weierich learned the hard way the pitfalls of the popular Web site Facebook.com.

Facebook, with 11 million users around the world, has revolutionized the way students socialize by allowing them to post anything about themselves they want others to know.

But it can have unintended consequences. Last fall, a friend of Weierich used Facebook to announce a party at Weierich's house. But the friend didn't tell Weierich, and strangers unexpectedly showed up at the house.

It was an awkward evening, nothing more, Weierich said. It hasn't scared her away from using Facebook.

"Facebook lets you control the amount of privacy you desire, so I continue to use it with no problems," she said. "After all, I was not the one who made the 'public' event announcement."

Harvard University student Chris Hughes and two friends created Facebook nearly two years ago to allow students to share more than they could in a traditional school directory.

"The idea was to take an information directory and put it online and give students control over what information they wanted to share with each other," Hughes said.

It began as a college-only service that students accessed using their school e-mail accounts. It has expanded to allow high school students to sign up, originally at a college student's invitation, but now at the invitation of any high schooler who uses the site.

The details that some students post raise security concerns.

Facebook profiles often contain a student's school, dorm room number, interests, relationship status, photos, event invitations and the names of online groups they belong to with other Facebook users.

The Washington Post reported recently that some Washington-area private schools have prohibited students from using their school e-mail addresses to register on Facebook.

The schools were con-

cerned about more than students' revealing too much about themselves online to strangers. College recruiters could use Facebook to discover unflattering things about students, potentially hurting the students' chances of being accepted.

Parry Aftab, director of the Web site WiredSafety.com, shares the security concerns to a point.

"The risk isn't because of the site but because of the way that students are using it," she said. They're too quick to post their addresses, phone numbers and photos.

But that doesn't necessarily mean they're in danger. "No one has, to our knowledge in the United States, ever tracked down somebody from a Facebook page to do them harm," she said. "There is a way to have a profile page and still be safe about it."

Hughes said the solution is to use common sense.

"There aren't necessarily those shadowy stalkers that there might be on a large network like MySpace," he said. "People can trace anything you said to a very real person on Facebook, so there's no way to hide anything you said."

That includes hiding from school officials.

A group of students at Kansas State University, for example, were caught violating the school's honor code last winter when school officials found them sharing course work on Facebook.

Students use Facebook for the typical activities of campus life.

Wichita State freshman Sara Turner uses it to reconnect with old friends.

"I've gotten back in touch with people who I haven't talked to for years and went to elementary school with," she said.

Marc Langston, a sophomore at the University of Kansas, posts messages for his student-political organizations.

"As a student senator I always look at my enemies' profiles to see who their friends are, and to deepen my understanding of their background," he said.

But campus life and students can be a little crazy. Some of what's on their pages could shock parents.

One group of Wichita Southeast High School students calls itself the Southeast Varsity Drinkers.

Another group's name uses an obscenity that refers to sex and the school's mascot, the Buffalo.

Southeast principal Leroy Parks declined to comment about Facebook. District spokeswoman Susan Arensman said the district can't control what students do outside of schools.

"There are certain sites that are blocked from the district, but if students are doing this at home, anybody can type anything," she said. "If they are doing all of this off school grounds, we encourage parents to know what their kids are doing as well."

Unlike their college counterparts, high school administrators are not able to access Facebook unless a student has invited them to join.

But many high schoolers are just using Facebook to socialize.

"I don't use it that often, really," said Caitlin Harper, a senior at East High School. She just delves into Facebook when people leave messages on her "wall," the spot on a student's page where friends can post messages.

"There are a lot of questions and contact information on there that reveals a lot of information about you," she said. "If you think something might happen by putting that information on there, then don't put it on there."

Victoria Nguyen, a senior at East High, said she uses Facebook to "check up on old friends... Facebook isn't as personal as an online journal, so I like it better."

But her mother, Kathleen Nguyen, was unaware that her daughter uses Facebook.

"I'm kind of concerned because personal information is on it," Kathleen Nguyen said. "I don't want anybody to steal her or my personal information."

Aftab said parents probably don't need to worry, overall.

"I tell parents not to freak out when they read what kids have written," she said. "They might talk about being drunk or having wild orgies when they've really been home coloring with their 5-year-old brother. It might not be true, but it makes them look cooler."

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Women trumped 68-49 by UIC's Flames

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

The classic metaphor for tough times is that when it rains, it pours. For the Youngstown State University's women's basketball team it has been a monsoon of a season, especially following Saturday afternoon's 68-49 loss at home to UIC.

The loss, which drops the Penguins to a record of 6-17 overall, was the team's second straight and their second loss on the season to the Flames.

The Flames lived up to their name Saturday, torching the net behind a 55 percent field goal percentage in the second half, finishing with a blistering 47 percent for the night — whereas the Penguins could only muster a dismal 38 percent on 16 of 42 field goals.

They were also out rebounded on the night, 34-28 for the game.

The contest started off promising for the Penguins, who

grabbed an early 4-0 lead, but the third ranked team in the Horizon League proved to be too much for the Penguins. Following several lead changes, the Penguins would only climb within 13 points for the rest of the contest.

The win for the Flames solidified their grip on the third spot in the conference, bringing their record to 12-11 overall and bettering their conference record to 8-4. The Penguins are just 2-10 in the Horizon League.

The Penguins were paced offensively by senior standouts Ashlee Russo and Michelle Holmes who both chipped in with 13 points apiece. Russo also recorded four rebounds on the night.

The setback Saturday hits doubly hard for the Penguins as they hit the road for three straight games, first facing state rival Cleveland State before heading up north to face both Green Bay and Milwaukee who

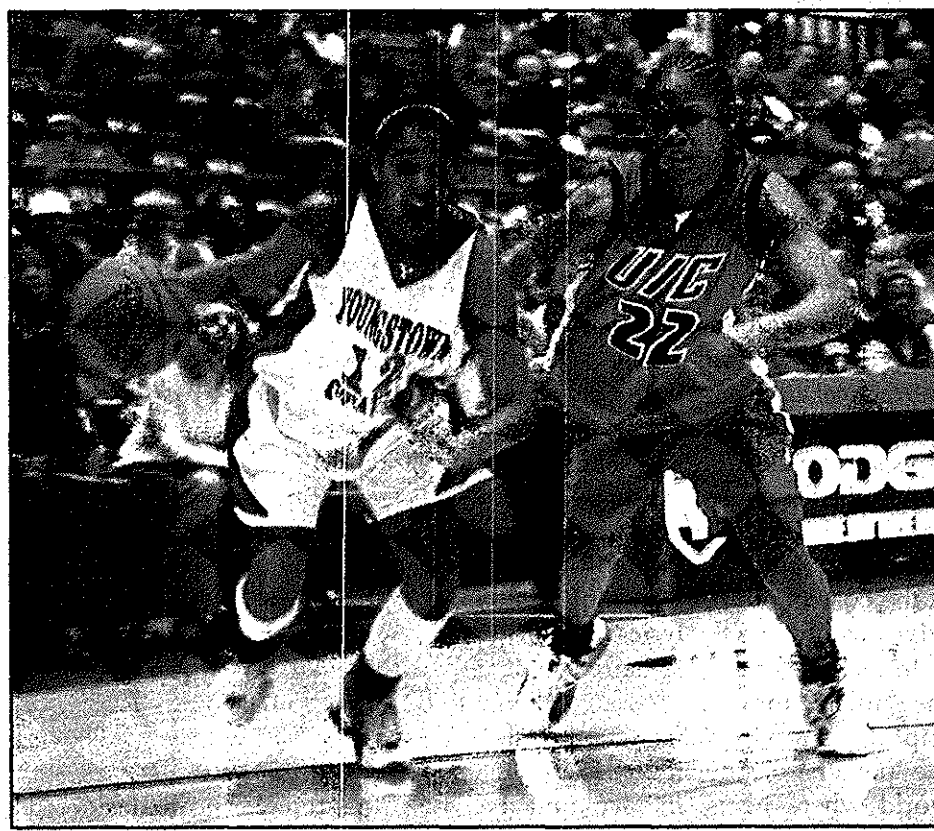
stand at the top of the Horizon League.

The Penguins then return home on Feb. 23 to battle Loyola for the final regular season game before the Horizon League tournament. Of the four remaining opponents the Penguins are 1-3 with their only win against 3-20 Cleveland State.

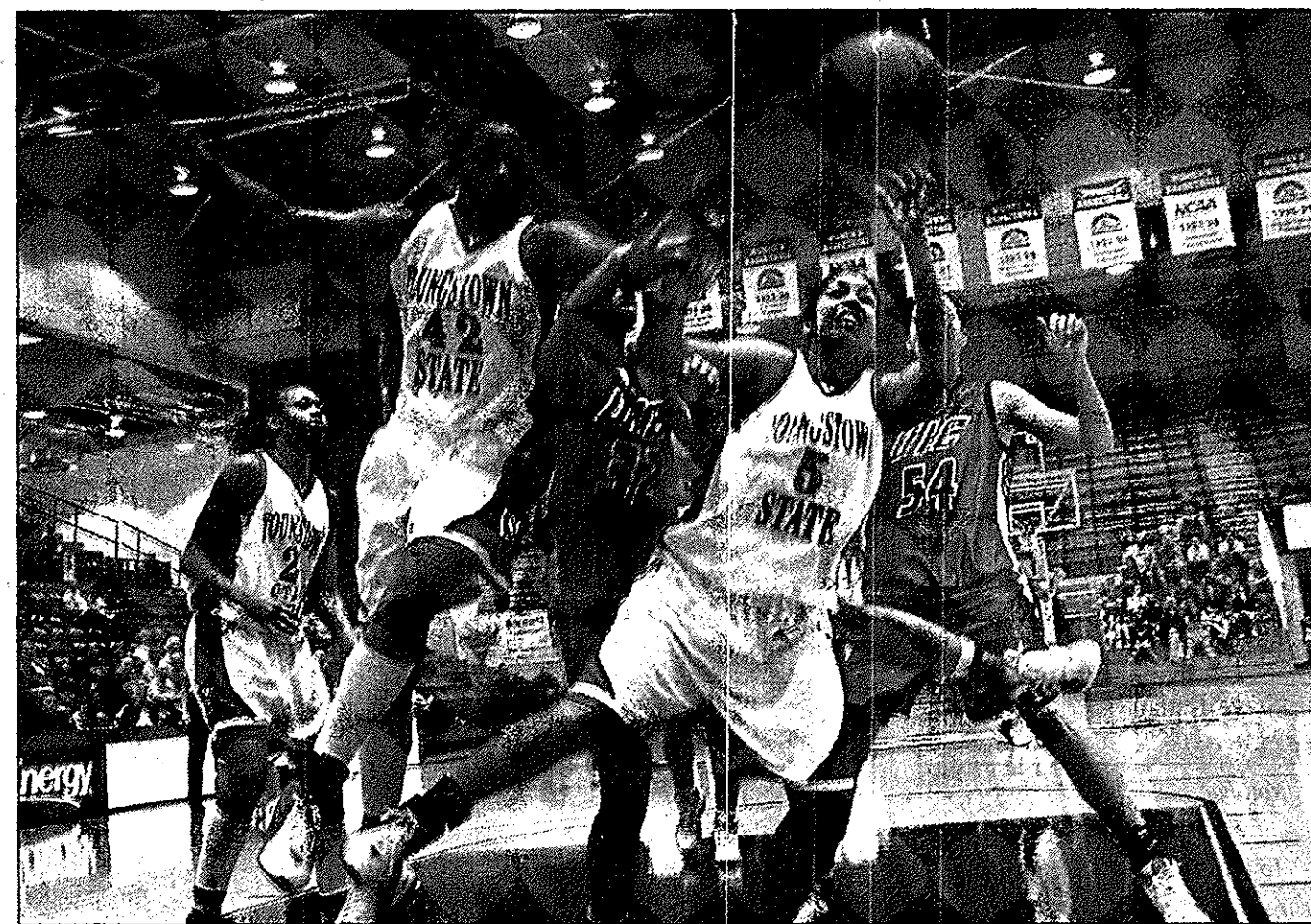
Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

**RIGHT:** Freshman Monique Godfrey gets past a Flames opponent during Saturday's match-up, where they lost 68-49.

**BELOW:** Nikita LaFleur (left) and Aliyah Sabree (right) struggle to gain control of the ball. Their last regular season home game will be Feb. 23 against Loyola.



Jambar/ Katie Libecco



Jambar/ Katie Libecco

School:	League:	Overall:
UW-Green Bay	10-1	18-4
UW-Milwaukee	9-2	14-8
UIC	8-4	12-11
Detroit	8-5	11-13
Butler	7-5	12-11
Wright State	6-7	10-14
Loyola	3-9	3-20
YSU	2-10	6-17
Cleveland State	1-11	3-20

NCAA

# YSU's self-study determines eligibility

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University's athletic department is involved in a required self-study of the school's compliance to NCAA rules and bylaws.

The study, which is required to be performed once every ten years, evaluates a school's compliance under three specific umbrellas: academic integrity, equity and athlete welfare, and commitment to rules compliance.

Academic integrity studies graduation rates and athletes' scholarly pursuits. Equity and student athlete welfare includes

examining gender equity, minority equity and career counseling. Governance and commitment to rules compliance scrutinizes how an athletic department is run and that it is being run in a manner that is in accordance with the way the rest of the university operates.

The results of the self-study are due to the NCAA in May. The study will dictate whether YSU will earn its certification. The certification is needed for tournament opportunities and allows a school to compete with other NCAA certified institutions.

While punishment for failing to adhere to NCAA guidelines can be harsh, failure to comply is a rarity in today's collegiate

world. Associate athletic director Elaine Jacobs said it is uncommon for institutions to lose complete certification.

"In general, most institutions are certified," Jacobs said. "There have been some certified but with conditions, but to my knowledge there have never been any institutions without certification."

The harsh punishments handed out by the NCAA could be the reason that failure to comply is almost nonexistent, Jacobs said.

"The biggest punishment for not complying is a football team can't even worry about getting to the playoffs, because they won't be eligible," Jacobs said. "That is like a death sentence."

The NCAA cites on their web page that the aim of the certification process is to show opportunities to improve, highlight athletic departments success and to inform the school of the state of the department.

Athletic director Ron Strollo, part of the athletics during the last self-study in 1998, said one of the biggest benefits for examining the way the athletic department behaves is to inform not only the YSU campus, but also the Mahoning Valley.

"This study is done to educate and involve people, not only on this campus but in this community," Strollo said.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

TORINO OLYMPICS

# Tale of undercover doping agents winds its way through the Alps

By: Ron Judd  
THE SEATTLE TIMES (KRT)

Is the Herminator an exaggerator, or are the dope cops running around Italy in disguise?

Hard to know, given the way information travels at the Olympics — namely, from one person who heard something from the ski-wax guy at Sestriere, over a cell phone to Pragelato, onto the bus to Bardonecchia, then via FTP to San Francisco and back to the press center by Skype web phone.

But the latest version of the story goes this way: Hermann Maier, the Austrian ski legend, was approached the other day

by "a blonde (woman) and a young guy" disguised as fans, according to Maier's agent, Walter Dellekarth, who was quoted by Deutsche Presse-Agentur.

Incidentally, Dellekarth knew the two were posing as fans because they arrived with "their eyes lit up," just to get access to Maier, at which point they whipped out ID cards and asked him to please provide urine and blood samples.

"It was like in a bad movie," said Dellekarth, who called the tactic "not very nice."

The tale was further embellished Monday morning, when a Euro cable network reported that the female dope tester even

gave Hermann a peck on the cheek. Unclear whether this A) ever happened or B) came before or after the collection of bodily fluids.

Either way, it was an outrage of species-wide proportions to Austrian team doctor Wulf Gjoetzer, who was quoted as saying the methods "violated human rights".

Doping officials were unfazed.

"All exams are carried out according to existing rules," International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Giselle Davies said Monday. "The medical personnel is clearly identified, and the athletes can fill (out) a form or file a complaint if they are not satisfied with the

procedure. So far, no issues and complaints have been received."

Urine and blood tests are expected to increase by 72 percent over the 2002 Salt Lake Games, where a number of high-profile athletes were busted. Through Sunday, 161 athletes had been tested, with nary a single positive.

Meantime, another rumor making the rounds has us even more concerned: That other dope cops are disguising themselves as journalists.

Great. We have enough trouble getting athletes to talk to us without their suspecting we're trying to snare them in a pee trap.

SPEAKING OF WHICH

Dress and behavior tips for dope cops hoping to disguise themselves as Olympic journalists: Clothes last washed state-side two weeks ago. Permanent bed head. Glazed eyes. Near-obsessive attempts to get lunch tab picked up by someone else's expense account.

HERMINATOR DESCENDS

Perhaps to escape all this tomfoolery, Maier, with two more chances to crown his incredible career with an Olympic gold medal, left Italy after the men's downhill to head for lower climes in hopes of healing a sore throat and flu symptoms, his agent said.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Tickets sales picked up further Sunday, bolstering Games officials' predictions that late-arriving Italians would warm to the Games at the last minute. The downhill, which isn't easy to get to, no matter who you are, was sold out; 94 percent of cross-country ski tickets were sold, and short track was 84 percent full on Sunday night.



COMMENTARY

# Love hurts, but love songs kill

By: Bob Mackey  
 COLUMNIST

Until I heard the song "MacArthur Park," I had a nasty habit of leaving cakes out in the rain; this not only ruined my career as a caterer, but it also left me with dozens of salty, soggy cakes which I couldn't even feed to birds. Richard Harris's haunting tune about cake upkeep may have taught me valuable lessons, but many songs lead ignorant listeners astray with impractical advice that can only lead to full-scale disaster if followed. Love songs are especially misleading in this regard, showcasing implausible scenarios that could only happen in the mind of the musician, or in the case of modern pop music, the minds of the boardroom full of middle-aged executives who wrote the lyrics.

In the case of the red-haired stepchild of the music industry, Clay Aiken, this impractical advice deals with the misuse of the powers of invisibility. Setting up a world where he is, in fact, invisible, he shows his listeners that he has absolutely no idea how to use his new-found superpowers. Here is an excerpt from his song, "Invisible."

"If I was invisible  
 Then I could just watch you in your room"

Hardly a lofty goal for someone who is invisible; in fact, with a properly placed tree branch, one can easily become an Aikenistic voyeur, and can even bring video equipment while keeping in mind the strength of the support and also if there are any nearby escape bushes. A better use for invisibility

in the case of Clay would be come up with a cool new invisibility-related super-villain name such as "Aiken't See You," eliminate any competition for this hypothetical girl, and then seek a cure for invisibility once all the homicide is out of the way. It's completely practical, and do you honestly think the police are going to take any calls about an invisible murderer seriously? They won't, I've tried it.

Moving on to the world of R&B, most people know Whitney Houston as the world's most famous bag lady. But did you know she actually used to be a musician? It's true. Taking a look at the terrible advice given in her 90s hit "I Will Always Love You" should prove why everything she does today is now considered an "episode."

"I hope life treats you kind  
 And I hope you have all you've dreamed of  
 I wish to you, joy and happiness  
 But above all this, I wish you love."

Not only does this song paint a picture of a mutual breakup, but it also depicts a breakup where both parties are completely diplomatic; both sheer impossibilities. Houston shows that there is honor in becoming a well-wisher, rather than turning all of those who wronged you into your mortal enemies. What Whitney doesn't

know is that this is the coward's way out, and that keeping your exes around as friends not only demonstrates your spinelessness, but

priately played at middle school dances, features a particularly misguided male character telling his lady friend:

"I'll make love to you  
 Like you want me to  
 And I'll hold you tight  
 Baby, all through the night"

The first mistake he makes is lovemaking on someone else's terms without first doing research. Not only can this lead to awkwardness, but it can be followed by serious medical problems and/or walking discomfort after the act. I haven't even touched upon the fact that the phrase "I'll make love to you" sounds more like an omen than the sweet talk of lovers. No one can succeed by being that direct. Only through weeks of awkward, stilted conversation can a guy find out if his girlfriend has a boyfriend. After that, a series of discussions relating to future sexual congress may take weeks, or even months to negotiate.

So, on this Valentine's Day, should you be lucky enough to have a guy or gal that you are sweet on, I recommend taking your cues from large, obstinate bald men like Dr. Phil, instead of popular music. Not only will you avoid falling into the traps I have outlined, but you'll win the respect of Oprah. And, when it all boils down, isn't that more important than love?

Bob Mackey wants to know what love is, but he doesn't want you to show him. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.



## VALENTINE'S DAY Love is in the air for YSU students

By: Steve Lettau  
 REPORTER

"You had me at hello," "Jerry Maguire" (1996)

"To love is to suffer. To avoid suffering, one must not love; but then one suffers from not loving," "Love and Death" (1975)

"Kiss me. Kiss me as if it were the last time," "Casablanca" (1942)

Love is in the air on the campus of Youngstown State University, as today is Valentine's Day; the day where cupid comes down and strikes an arrow through the heart of prospective mates, a day of Hallmark cards, red roses, stuffed animals and sappy movies like "The Notebook."

For some students and faculty at YSU, the love started on Monday, many of whom were finalizing their plans for the next evening or spreading the spirit of love to others.

Rondalynn Solomon and Jessica Reviere of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sat inside Kilcawley Center passing out candy to their fellow students.

"We're doing this to put the word out for our organization and to just wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day," Solomon said. "It's just a nice gesture."

Asked if they had plans, Solomon was about to answer when William Blake, the Director of Student Diversity Programs, interrupted.

"Yeah, they're taking me to Red Lobster," Blake said, laughing.

Continuing, Blake joked that he was going on a "cruise to the Caribbean" with Robin Bradley, secretary for the marketing department, who was standing

"It's something to break the monotony of winter and it's something fun to look forward to."

Jake Glavies  
 YSU Student

nearby. Bradley just shook her head and she had other plans for the evening.

"Me and my boys are probably going to sit at home and watch a movie and eat popcorn," Bradley said.

Some students, like junior engineering major Derrick Almasi, have classes tonight, so they had to plan ahead.

"I'm sending a balloon bouquet to my girlfriend's house because we won't be able to see each other because we have school and work until later at night," Almasi said.

He added that he might take her to a fancy restaurant or treat her to a massage from a solon on another day.

Derrick could have taken a cue from one couple who avoided the crowds and celebrated over the weekend.

Jake Glavies and Alysia D'Amico said they have been going out for almost a year.

"To avoid the rush we celebrated Sunday," Glavies said. "Those places will be packed."

Not everyone at YSU feels the love in the air.

"I'm really not doing anything," junior Katie Papay said. Papay said she feels that Valentine's Day is overdone.

"It's a crock. Valentine's Day is like an assignment. It's written on every calendar and we're

please see LOVE, Page 5

## YSU Psychic offers messages from beyond

By: Katie Libecco  
 COPY EDITOR

Psychic medium JoAnn Radovich said she's only hoping to enlighten people.

"I guess this is just my journey in life. Everything has lead up to this point. I just want to help others open their eyes to the possibility of life after death, and past lives," Radovich said. "It's been quite a journey."

Radovich said that she could see and hear messages from people who have died, communicating directly with them. She also does past-life readings.

So on Wednesday when she was doing open message work at Winslow's Café at the Butler Institute of American Art, I set out with two other Jambar staffers to accept the invitation I found on the flier that read, "Come join me in a message from beyond."

Messages from beyond  
 I've never been to a psychic before, so I wasn't sure what to expect. The Jambar staffers sat with the two others in attendance at Winslow's.

Knowing that I am, at times, very gullible, I kept telling myself to be critical of any psychic messages she may deliver. But anyone could easily be charmed by her soft voice and small frame.

Radovich would take long pauses between thoughts while talking about the past, often looking at the ceiling or floor. She paced in a small square with a distant look in eyes when she'd mention a sad story.

"I don't mean to sound so morbid," she said with a giggle and smile when the mood got too dark.

The evening began with Radovich explaining herself and her psychic work.

"I don't use tools - you know, tarot cards or tea leaves or anything like that. All of the information comes from the same place - the spirit," she said.

After about an hour of introducing the practice, she began to deliver messages to the five people in the audience from deceased

loved ones. The first Jambar staffer, Steve Lettau, got a message from his late grandmother, whom he said passed away decades before he was born. Radovich said the message for him was that she was "very proud of him."

His message also included several reminders of important life lessons. All of the ones about doors closing, windows opening and going down the right path.

"I was hoping I'd get a message from Amelia Earheart or Jimmy Hoffa. That'd be a great story. Instead I got a message from a grandfather I never met."

Katie Libecco  
 Jambar Copy Editor

There were also some omens of failure for him, at which point I had to bite my lip to keep from giggling out loud. So he kicked me.

The next Jambar staffer, Cheryl Thompson, got a message from her deceased dog. Radovich delivered messages of fond memories from the dog of playing Frisbee with Thompson.

"He just wanted to let you know that he was as loyal to you as you were to him," Radovich told her.

Then there was a brief message from her grandmother. Thompson was pretty much upset that the first person waiting in line to talk to her in the after-life was a lost mutt.

And then it all came to me. The worst part of getting messages from beyond is the way everyone looks at you, waiting to see if you break down into tears or laugh. Meanwhile, I was hoping I'd get a message from Amelia Earheart or Jimmy Hoffa. That'd be a great story.

Instead, I got a message from a grandfather I'd never met who apparently had little to say to me. The message was pretty vague, mostly pertaining to my past and future experiences as a writer.

"You're going to see a lot of things, and not all of them will be

pretty," Radovich told me. Couldn't that be said to anyone in northeast Ohio? It's not always the most beautiful of places. "He said he's going to have a hell of a time looking after you," she also told me, causing my to laugh.

That part I could believe. Radovich kept asking for verification that she was indeed talking to my grandfather and I kept agreeing that she was really talk-

ing my late grandfather. But it was mostly because I'm polite. I never actually met him, so it's hard to say for sure whom she was talking to.

Whoever it was came across as really polite, though.

Psychic History  
 Radovich said her experience as a psychic began about four years ago when her son died.

"At first I didn't believe in it. I thought it was goofy, all fraud," she said. "Then I started hearing my son."

It was through messages from her deceased son, Andrew Coyne, who told her exactly how he died. She said he told her that he was murdered, although his death was classified as a suicide.

After his death, she began attending a support group and meditating. While she was meditating, she said she began to receive messages from her son and other children of parents in the support group.

"Some people think psychics are fortune-tellers. It's not about that. It's not true. It's about talking to those who've crossed over," she said.

Radovich said that she thinks everyone has the ability to be a psychic medium, which she said

please see PSYCHIC, Page 5